

McLean County Museum of History

Gathman Collection

Inventoried by
Carol Straka, July 2023

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	One Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1916-1956
PROVENANCE:	Donated by Mildred Gathman in 1997
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:	Past Perfect #2023.0073

Brief History

Mildred Scholl Gathman (1918-2001) was born in rural Arrowsmith and lived there much of her life. She graduated Illinois State Normal University with a teaching certificate in 1937 and taught at Cornell School in Arrowsmith Township. She wed farmer Floyd Gathman in 1938. After starting a family, she substitute taught for many years.

Mildred was an active 4-H club leader from mid-1950s to mid-1970s. She worked as a clerk at local farm elevators during harvest season. She was a member of Arrowsmith Christian Church, Home Extension, and the Republican Women's Club.

A Bellflower native, Floyd Gathman (1914-1991) became a leader in the Arrowsmith Christian Church, Over the Top 4-H Club, town government, the McLean County Fair, and other local organizations. He farmed for over fifty years and his family farm was designated as a centennial farm by the state of Illinois.

Scope Note

Materials include farm financial records, Mildred's school workbooks, and some miscellaneous items.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Miscellaneous

- 1.1.1 Purple construction paper book with daffodils: Lotus M's hand-made booklet of handwritten poetry and pasted-in illustrations.
- 1.1.2 Bellflower Loyalty: Carbon copy of poem about Bellflower High. No date or author.
- 1.1.3 Gift agreement with Mildred Gathman, 1997.

LOOSE ITEMS:

FARM RECORDS:

Green Ledger: *Cox's Farm Accounts*, copyright 1913

- Front pages include local merchants' ads from LeRoy, Heyworth, Bellflower, Farmer City, etc.
- Preprinted 55 pages of info from USDA and other sources
- Gathmans have entered much of their data for 1916-1935 including farm inventory,

income and expenses, etc. and also include a few stray invoices and checks.

Black ledger: *Farmers Record*

Gathmans recorded sales and expenses for livestock, grain, milk sold, etc. including some milk and stockyard receipts and some invoices. Primarily covers 1937-1938 although sales receipts and invoices are largely 1942. Also includes subscription for stock in Saybrook Cooperative Cold Storage Locker Service.

Condition note: Front cover is present but detached.

Brown soft cover journal:

Farm records (grain, livestock, etc.) for 1936-1948, plus some unspecified years, and 1956.

MILDRED SCHOLL'S SCHOOL WORKBOOKS:

Red composition book: "Agriculture" 1929-1930. Contains her handwritten lessons, some with pasted-in pictures, a few grades from teacher.

Red composition book: "Agriculture" 1930-1931. Similar to above.

Brown Notebook for Nature Study and Health Education in the Fifth Year, by Alice Jean Patterson, Illinois State Normal University, 1926. Published by McKnight & McKnight in Normal. Includes Mildred's handwritten lessons and some pasted-in pictures and dried plant specimens. 1929.

Green 3 ring binder "Agriculture 1937" prepared by Mildred Scholl with her handwritten essays, pasted-in pictures and brochures, etc. 57 pages.

Practical Drawing Modern Arts Course Revised Book One by G.W. Ware and Lida Hooe, 1919. A few pages have been used.

OTHER ITEMS:

Green composition book: 38 pages of handwritten instructions on sewing clothing projects. No author or date.

Tan compositions book: of Lotus Marsh, Arrowsmith, IL. A youngster's notes and observations, plus essay on Betsy Ross and other childhood items.