

McLean County Museum of History

Goelzer-Karr Collection

Processed by Carol Straka
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 box
COLLECTION DATES:	1886-1965, 1984.
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 Photos- People See also in Library: - <i>A Life's Harvest</i> , memoirs of J.P. Karr, 2011 - Unpublished reminiscences of Rae Gertrude Goelzer Karr Gift of Deb Spencer, daughter of J.P. Karr, September 2020.

Brief History

Key persons represented in this collection include:

Charles P. "Charlie" Goelzer (1868-1927) Born and raised in Appleton Wis, Charlie came to Bloomington as young man. He worked as manager of the clothing department of My Store. During the last 3 years of his life, he ran a downtown Bloomington clothing store with son Norval. A sports buff, Charlie was head of the Bloomington (Baseball) Fan Assn and the Bloomington Bicycle Club. He was also active in many local organizations such as Masons, Shriners, Odd Fellows, Lions, Elks, etc. He wed **Anna Holland** (1871-1939) in 1890 and they reared son Norval and daughter Rae.

Rae Gertrude Goelzer Karr (1891-1972) grew up in her native Bloomington and graduated Illinois State Normal University (ISNU) in 1911. She taught for about a year in Bloomington primary schools. She wed **Lee J. Karr** (1888-1956) in 1912. Lee was born and raised on the family farm in Shirley where he lived throughout his life. He was active in the Shirley Christian Church, Scottish Rite, Masons and other organizations. The couple raised a son, Dr. Jean Phillip Karr (1923-2007) and a daughter Carol Ann Karr (1928-2013) who became Mrs. E.H. King.

Charlie Goelzer's sister **Genevieve "Jennie" May Goelzer** (1861-1933) superintended two different girls homes in Wisconsin before heading up the Girls Industrial Home/Lucy Orme Morgan Home in Bloomington for five years.

Scope

This collection includes newspaper articles, a few business and professional correspondences, household receipts, World War II ration materials, an ISNU grade report, family genealogical info, and two autograph books.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Newspaper Articles. Etc. *Pantagraph*, unless otherwise noted.

- 1.1 1908, ad for Charles P. Goelzer as candidate for first ward alderman. *Daily Bulletin*.
- 1.2 1913 Apr 6, "Mr. C. P. Goelzer Gets a Big Vote." *Daily Bulletin*. Elected Assistant Supervisor; one of few democrats were were elected.
- 1.3 Undated, "Charles P. Goelzer and Son Take Over Heldman Business." *Sunday Bulletin*. Chas & Norval bought Heldman's clothing business. Profiles of both men.
- 1.4 1920 Feb 4, "Who's Who In The Sport Arena in Bloomington." *Daily Bulletin*. A small bio on Charlie Goelzer's interest in baseball and head of Blm Fans Assn.
- 1.5 1922 Feb 15, "Bloomington Fans have Plenty pep." *Daily Bulletin*. Chas P Goelzer president of fans assn that helped field a Three Eye league team.
- 1.6 1922 Nov 2, "Can You Remember Way Back When These 'Boys' Were Pride of Town?" Captioned photo of Blm Bicycle Club of 1893 incl. Chas P. Goelzer.
- 1.7 1927 Dec 19, "Pneumonia is Fatal to Charles P. Goelzer." Obit.
- 1.8 Nov 1927, "Shrine Clubs." *The Shrine Magazine*. Photo with Shrine Club playground workers.
- 1.9 1929 Jan 1, "Health Record High at Industrial Home." Jennie Goelzer, superintendent of Girls Industrial Home, gives a recap of 1928 activities.
- 1.10 1929 May 9, "Goelzers Buy Building of Heldman Estate." Norval and Mrs. Anna Goelzer purchase downtown building leased by Goelzer Clothing store which Norval has operated.
- 1.11 Undated, "Firm Incorporated." Goelzer, Inc. incorporated to conduct existing men's clothing establishment. Source unknown.
- 1.12 1929 July 23, "Social Notes." Wedding engagement of Theresa Lucile Quinn of Shirley to Rbt N. Jones of Chicago. Theresa graduated ISNU in 1927.
- 1.13 1929 Aug 20, "Theresa Lucile Quinn, Robert Nelson Jones Wed in Garden Service."

- 1.14 1929 Dec 31, "Lucy Orme Morgan Home Actives for Period of 1929 Are Reviewed." Jennie Goelzer is superintendent.
- 1.15 1930 Aug 30, "Original Directorate of Bloomington Fans Ass'n." Captioned photo includes Charlie Goelzer.
- 1.16 1932 Sep 12, "Scottish Rite Officers of Illinois Plan Relief Work." Captioned photo.
- 1.17 1932 Oct 16, "Second Christian Bible School Turns Out for Picture in Front of Church Building at Mulberry and Evans Streets." Captioned photo.
- 1.18 1933 Feb 19, "Do You Remember When Bicycling Was Big Sport in Bloomington?" Captioned photo of cycling team incl. Chas P. Goelzer.
- 1.19 1934 Apr 6, "Shirley." Miscellaneous notes on Karr family.
- 1.20 1947 May 29, "Mrs. Emily Karr, 90, Dies at Home in Shirley." Obit.
- 1.21 1948, Feb, ad for Executor & Trustee's Sale of Real Estate for estate of Emily K. Karr of Shirley
- 1.22 1965 Nov 14, "Famed Circus Barn Nearing End." Old Ward flying barn on East Emerson St.
- 1.23 Undated, ad for "Goelzer's Are Quitting Business."

Folder 2: Rae Gertrude Goelzer Karr

- 2.1 Commencement program for Bloomington Public Schools, June 1904 plus list of graudate of Edwards School in Jan 1904.
- 2.2 Program for class play "Mr. Bob" at Bloomington High School, April 1905.
- 2.3 Program for class play "All Tangled Up" at Bloomington High School, March 1906.
- 2.4 Invitation to Bloomington High School Commencement, 4 Jun 1908.
- 2.5 Illinois State Normal University (ISNU) two year grade report for Rae G. Goelzer, 1909-11.
- 2.6 Five letters of recommendation for Rae Goelzer as she applied for teaching position in Pryor, OK. 30-31 May 1910. Letters from Bloomington High School Superintendent J.K. Stableton, Principal William Wallace, and ISNU instructors M. J. Homes, Edwin A. Turner, and Grace Arlington Owen.
- 2.7 Envelope with return address/logo of A.F. & A.M. Shirley Lodge No. 582. Envelope was used to store recommendations above.
- 2.8 Invitation to commencement of ISNU, 8 Jun 1911.
- 2.9 Commencement program for ISNU, 8 Jun 1911.
- 2.10 Cap from single serve Dixies of Meadow Gold ice cream featuring actress Joan Bennett. Undated.

Folder 3: Lee J. Karr

- 3.1 Receipt from George Brand & Sons, Bloomington, for nearly thirty items of household furniture, 22 Oct 1913. Paid 23 Oct 1913. Plus handwritten list of items and prices, July 1913.
- 3.2 Letter from E.P. Shaplund, Secretary, Nelsen Concrete Culvert Co of Campaign, IL to L.J. Karr enclosing letter of recommendation and offering thanks on his employment successes at Nelson, 28 Jan 1929. Enclosed is carbon copy of letter to Illinois Equipment Co. of Bloomington.
- 3.3 Lee Karr's business cards with Nelsen Concrete of Pontiac and with Illinois Road Equipment Co. of Bloomington.

- 3.4 Letter from Trust Officer C. C. Baldwin of Corn Belt Bank to Lee Karr at Shirley, enclosing check for final distribution of assets of Illinois Road Equipment Company plus summary of receipts and payouts, 30 Jul 1932.
- 3.5 Western Union telegram from Lee Karr to Mrs. Lee Karr in Bloomington on their 17th wedding anniversary, 25 Jun 1929.
- 3.6 Invitation from Governor and General Assembly of Illinois to join US President Herbert Hoover at dedication of remodeled tomb of Abraham Lincoln in Springfield, 17 Jun 1931.

Folder 4: Karr Family WWII Rationing Materials

- 4.1 Mileage and gasoline rations for Lee Karr, 13 items
- 4.2 Ration Book No. 3, 3 items – one each Lee, Rae, and Carol Karr
- 4.3 Sugar ration materials, 2 items, Rae Karr
- 4.4 Application for special shoe stamp, unused
- 4.5 Seventh War Loan Drive, 1945: unused subscription & colored advertisement

Folder 5: Miscellaneous

- 5.1 *125 Year History of Shirley Christian Church and Shirley, Illinois*, prepared by Ruth Carpenter and Theodora Karr Johnston, 1984. 28 pp.
- 5.2 Photocopies of marriages, births, deaths, etc. pages from family Bible. Starts with Thomas Jefferson Karr (1821-1866) who wed Elizabeth Low (b. 1818)
- 5.3 Photocopies of pages of *Contributions to the Early History of Perth Amboy and Adjoining Country*, by Wm A Whitehead, 1856. pp22-41.
- 5.4 Photocopy of page from Custer pamphlet, 1923. Photo shows “former residence of Walter Karr, Heyworth” and handwritten note comments “brother of Dr. Thomas Karr”.
- 5.5 *The Patriot*, Vol 1, No 2, Bloomington July 26, 1918. An open letter from J.A. Landes to President Woodrow Wilson
- 5.6 Commencement program for Bloomington Public Schools, Jun 1903.

Loose Books:

- *Hours of Devotion*, a woman’s prayer book by M. Mayer, 1866. Property of Anna Holland. Front and back inside covers list handwritten family records of birth, marriage, and deaths.
- Autograph book of Anna Holland. Maroon cover with decorative leaf design. Autographs largely from South Bend, IN, in 1886-87; Bloomington 1887-89 and later; plus some from Chicago and elsewhere. Includes 2 pp of signatures from My Store employees at her father’s workplace.
- Autograph book of Rae G. Goelzer. Brown velveteen cover with gold floral decoration. 1900-1901.

