

**McLean County Museum of History**

**Grand Opera House Collection**

Processed by  
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**Collection Information**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	c.1891 - 1909 (some items undated).
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

The Grand Opera House was built 1890-1891 and stood at 106-110 E. Market Street in Bloomington under the management of Charles E. Perry. The Grand Opening was on February 2, 1891 and over the next 18 years it hosted a variety of plays, musicals and concerts. It was destroyed by fire which had spread from a nearby building on May 2, 1909. It was rebuilt and reopened in 1910 as the Chatterton Theater, renamed the Illini Theater in 1923, and closed in 1933.

## Scope

The collection includes programs from several Shakespeare plays, as well as other dramas, musical comedies, and concerts. Among the performers listed are John Drew, Helena Modjeska, and Margaret Illington as well as Ignacy Paderewski, the Russian and Chicago Symphony Orchestras, and the John Philip Sousa Band. Also included are souvenir booklet from the grand opening as well as newspaper accounts of the opening and destruction of the theater and miscellaneous advertisements

## Box and Folder Inventory

### Folder 1: Newspaper Articles (from *The Pantagraph* unless noted)

- 1.1 "The Opera House Finished," February 2, 1891
- 1.2 "The New Grand," February 3, 1891. 4 pgs,
- 1.3 "He Ruined the Floor," *Daily Leader*, February 4, 1891, 4 pgs.
- 1.4 "Grand Opera House Demolished by Fire," May 5, 1909, 6 pgs.

### Folder 2: Shakespeare Plays Programs

- 2.1 "The Merchant of Venice," January 6, 1898.
- 2.2 "Hamlet," May 6, 1899. 4 pgs.
- 2.3 "Hamlet," January 17, 1900.
- 2.4 "A Winter's Tale," April 16, 1900. (2 copies). 4 pgs
- 2.5 "Macbeth," November 29, 1908
- 2.6 "The Tragedy of Macbeth," undated (January, 1907)

### Folder 3: Drama Programs

- 3.1 "The Old Homestead," December 18, 1897. 4 pgs.
- 3.2 "Mary Stuart," November 29, 1900.
- 3.3 "Quincy Adams Sawyer," c.1904. 2 pgs.
- 3.4 "The Great Divide," March 20, (1906). 2 pgs.
- 3.5 "The Witching Hour," undated (March, 1909) 2 pgs.
- 3.6 "An Old Sweetheart of Mine," undated (January 1908)

**Folder 4      Comedy Programs**

- 4.1 "Lend Me Your Wife," March 28, 1892. 2 pgs.
- 4.2 "Nell Gwynne," January 4, 1901.
- 4.3 "His House in Order," April 20, 1907. 2 pgs.

**Folder 5:      Opera/Operetta Programs**

- 5.1 "San Toy," January 2, 1905. 4 pgs.
- 5.2 "The Mikado," May 5-6, 1905. Illustrated. 4 pgs.
- 5.3 "Madam Butterfly," undated (March, 1908)
- 5.4 "Peggy from Paris," undated (January, 1908)

**Folder 6:      Concert Program**

- 6.1 Theodore Thomas and the Chicago Orchestra (sic). April 22, 1901. 2 pgs.
- 6.2 (John Philip) Sousa Band Grand Concert, March 23, 1902. 4 pgs.
- 6.3 Paderewski Piano Concert, March 8, 1905. Includes ticket stub. 1pg
- 6.4 "A Mid Summer Night's Dream," (sic) The Russian Symphony Orchestra and the Ben Greet Players, March 23 (1909).

**Folder 7:      Miscellaneous**

- 7.1 Grand Opening Souvenir Booklet February 2, 1891. Includes information on building and staff.
- 7.2 "Way Down East," booklet (advertising undated, 1901 on back cover.)
- 7.3 "Faust," advertisement of performance by Lewis Morrison, (undated) January 1893
- 7.5 "Christmas Tide 1897 Souvenir," first page only, no program notes.
- 7.4 2 pages of advertisements taken from programs of unknown productions