

McLean County Museum of History

**Irish Immigrants Collection –
Irish History Project, 2000**

Processed by Rochelle Gridley
Fall 2024

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1853-2003
RESTRICTIONS:	None
PROVENANCE:	Gift of granddaughter Megan Riley in August 2022
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

Irish immigrants first arrived in large numbers to McLean County in the early 1850s. Initially, many came as railroad workers. They continued to arrive as part of the exodus resulting from the Great Famine. In 2000, the McLean County Historical Society, in conjunction with Central Illinois Irish-Americans and labor unions, raised funds for a monument commemorating the Irish railroad workers who died and were buried at Funks Grove. Archival materials and scholarly articles describing the Irish immigrant experience gathered over the years by the Historical Society were published together in a book, *Irish Immigrants in McLean County*, which is currently digitized and available on the Internet Archive.

Scope

This collection includes materials relating to the erection of the Irish Railroad Workers' Memorial at Funks Grove, as well as the companion book project, *Irish Immigrants in McLean County*, edited by then-Museum Executive Director Greg Koos and published by the McLean County Historical Society in 2000.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Correspondence

- 1.1 Quote from Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company for publication of Irish Railroad Worker's Book, April 5, 2000.
- 1.2 Letter to Cynthia Baer regarding her paper on Irish domestic workers, from Greg Koos, February 17, 2000.
- 1.3 Letter to Greg Koos regarding article about Mike Casey, from John Jordan Moore, February 3, 2000.
- 1.4 Letter to Mark Wyman regarding writing the introduction to Irish Railroad Workers book, draft, no author, no date.
- 1.5 Letter from John Jordan Moore to Greg Koos with reproduced photo of John Albert Moore, July 31, 2001.
- 1.6 Letter to Patricia Breen, Streatorland Historical Society Museum, from Mark Dunn, returning and discussing photos of Billy Myer, September 8, 2000.
- 1.7 Memo from Ron (MCMH) re flyers for "Erin's Daughters" symposium, October 15, 2001.
- 1.8 Letter from John Jordan Moore to Greg Koos, April 21, 2002.

Folder 2: Papers by Mark Wyman

- 2.1 Foreword to *Irish Immigrants of McLean County*, Wyman, Mark, 2000.
- 2.2 "The Irish as American industrial pioneers," Wyman, Mark, undated.

Folder 3: Paper by Rev. John J. Burks

- 3.1 "The Irish in McLean County," Burke, Rev. John J., published in *Daily Pantagraph*, May 5, 1900, typewritten version of published article?
- 3.2 Clean copy of "The Irish in McLean County" for publication in Irish Railroad Workers book, circa 2000.

Folder 4: Reminiscence of Julia Larkin Sullivan

- 4.1 Typed transcript of interview of Julia Larkin Sullivan regarding attending St. Joseph's Academy, interviewed by Jean McCrossin, 1990.

Folder 5: Papers by Mike Matejka

- 5.1 "Irish immigrant son Patrick Morrissey built rail brotherhood," originally published in *Union News*, August 1989.
- 5.2 "Building a railroad: 1850s Irish immigrant labor in Central Illinois," for booklet to accompany Irish Rail Workers Monument, McLean County, 3rd Draft, February 23, 2000.
- 5.3 Traditional Irish poem from 1860s included for publication by Mike Matejka.
- 5.4 *Labor's Heritage*, Spring Summer 2001, includes "Beneath the Celtic cross" by Mike Matejka and "Museum and labor partnerships in McLean County, Illinois," by Greg Koos.

Folder 6: Papers by John Jordan Moore

- 6.1 Holy Trinity Parish Sesquicentennial Oral History, Moore, John J. 2000.
- 6.2 "Wild Mike Casey," partial draft of paper by Moore, John J. undated
- 6.3 Handwritten letter or notes regarding Mike Casey, Moore, John J., undated.
- 6.4 "The American Hartnett family," John J. Moore, undated.

Folder 7: Papers by Mark T. Dunn

- 7.1 "Irish-American organizations in Bloomington in the 1880's," Dunn, Mark T., undated.
- 7.2 "Billy Myer, the 'Streator Cyclone'," Dunn, Mark T., June 2000.
- 7.3 "Richard T. Dunn: The Paddy Ryan Affair," Dunn, Mark T., undated.

Folder 8: Irish immigrants at Funks Grove Cemetery

- 8.1 "The Irish workers at Funks Grove," Funk, Stephen C., undated.
- 8.2 "Grandmother's Reminiscences on the Irish railroad workers," Canfield, L. Jane, undated.

Folder 9: Reminiscence of Helen Ross Hall

- 9.1 "My Life, Helen Ross Hall," Conroy, Marguerite, undated.

Folder 10: Paper by Cynthia L. Baer

- 10.1 "The Labor of Irish women in nineteenth century Bloomington -Normal: A Portrait painted through the writings of Sarah Davis and Helen Ross Hall," Baer, Cynthia, 1994.

Folder 11: Paper by Greg Koos

- 11.1 "The Irish hedge schoolmaster in the American backcountry 1720 - 1840," Koos, Greg, undated.

Folder 12: Lecture, dedication and celebration programs

- 12.1 Program, "Dedication of Irish railroad workers memorial Funks Grove chapel and burial grounds," April 28, 2000.
- 12.2 Pamphlet, Irish Railroad Workers Monument, circa 2000.
- 12.3 Pamphlet, "Becoming American in rural Illinois, Irish immigration and culture," October 5, 2002.
- 12.4 Pamphlet, "Erin's Daughters," Symposium at MCMH and Davis Mansion, October 27, 2001.
- 12.5 Program, "From quayside to Main Street, Distances and dialogue," American conference for Irish Studies, Midwest Regional Conference, Fall Meeting, Bloomington-Normal, IL, October 2003.
- 12.6 Mailer for "From quayside to Main Street, Distances and dialogue," American conference for Irish Studies, Midwest Regional Conference, Fall Meeting, Bloomington-Normal, IL, October 2003.
- 12.7 Program, Centennial Celebration, Knights of Columbus, Father John D. Ring Council 574, April 23, 2001.
- 12.8 "Devine is doomed, and so are high prices," *Illinois Historical Journal*, 91:1, Spring 1998.
- 12.9 Program, St. Patrick's Day, St. Joseph's Academy, March 11, 1914. (Facsimile)

Folder 13: Patsey Devine trial

- 13.1 "Devine is doomed, and so are high prices," *Illinois Historical Journal*, 91:1, Spring 1998.
- 13.2 "Patsey's poem."
- 13.3 Reproduced jury instructions from the trial of Patsey Devine, 1880.

Folder 14: School records

- 14.1 Receipts for tuition from Mrs. Clara Rothman and Mr. A.A. Rothman, 1909 and 1911, facsimile, (3 items).
- 14.2 Report cards, for Clara Rothman, circ 1911, facsimile, (3 items).
- 14.3 Letter of receipt from St. Joseph's Academy, facsimile, undated.
- 14.4 Christmas card, from St. Joseph's Academy, facsimile, undated.

Folder 15: Miscellaneous

- 15.1 Letter from Joseph W. Fifer to the U.S. President suggesting recognition for Edward O'Connell, a staunch Republican, October 9, 1889.
- 15.2 Facsimile of photo of John A. Moore family.
- 15.3 Facsimile of photo Mary Arnol See and her daughters, 1904.
- 15.4 Facsimile of photo of funeral, three men identified: George R. Flynn, Rev. Michael Weldon and John A. Moore, undated.]
- 15.5 Notes regarding quotes from writings of John J. Moore.
- 15.6 Three early 20th century postcards from Ireland, in sleeves.

- 15.7 "Forget me not," Graybill, Elaine, *Illinois State for Alumni of ISU*, 13:1, Summer 2002. (ISU archeological dig at Irish pre-famine sites.)
- 15.8 Window sticker from Roscommon, IR.
- 15.9 "A Souvenir note of the Great Famine commemoration at the Monakyle Graveyard," Tarbert, August 15, 1995.
- 15.10 Poem, Kilkelly, Ireland, Mick McClony, c. 1991.
- 15.11 Research panel, National Library of Ireland, undated.
- 15.12 Transcripts of letter from Irish laborers published in *Western Tablet*, in 1850s and mimeographed copies of news articles.
- 15.13 "Francis O'Neill, Chicago's new police chief," *The Chicago Daily Tribune*, April 30, 1901.
- 15.14 Funeral card for Frank A. Koos, November 10, 1997.
- 15.15 Recipe card, Corned beef and cabbage, Eva Okell, McLean County Cooperative Extension.
- 15.16 Recipe card, Irish Plum Cake, McLean County Cooperative Extension.

Folder 16: 1860 Census of Irish-born Residents of McLean County