

McLean County Museum of History

## McLean County Government Collection

Processed by  
Bill Wasson  
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### Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 box
COLLECTION DATES:	1830-2023
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:	
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	Past Perfect #2024.0058 See also: McLean County Courthouses Collection; McLean County Poor Farm Collection; McLean County Health Dept., McLean County Regional Planning Commission, McLean County Courthouses.

### History

By action of the General Assembly of Illinois, the County of McLean, Illinois was formed on December 25, 1830, out of Tazewell County. It was named for John McLean, the first

Representative of Illinois in Congress (1818) and United States Senator (1824-25) for Illinois, who died in 1830.

McLean County has the largest land area of any county in the in the State of Illinois, encompassing approximately 1,186 square miles of which 1,183 are land. McLean County is larger than the land area of the State of Rhode Island. The City of Bloomington is the seat of County Government.

## Scope Note

This collection contains newspaper articles, incorporation documents, materials produced by County offices, including brochures, annual reports and correspondence, and related items.

## Folder Inventory

### Folder 1: Early Records

- 1.1 An Act Creating McLean County” (transcribed) from *Laws of Illinois* 1831, pp. 57-59.
- 1.2 Petition to the Committee on Counties 1859, 7 pp.

### Folder 2: Early Minutes / Bounties

- 2.1 Minutes of the McLean County Board of Supervisors (hand transcribed), Sept. 10, 1866-December 5, 1866, 37 pp.
- 2.2 Minutes of the McLean County Board of Supervisors Special Committee to Investigate War Bounties (hand transcribed) December 6, 1865-June 9, 1866, 28 pp.
- 2.3 Minutes of the McLean County Board of Supervisors Special Committee to War Bounties (type transcribed) December 6, 1865-June 9, 1866, 11 pp.

### Folder 3: Board Proceedings

- 3.1 *Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors of McLean County, Illinois* (Printed by Leader Pub. Co.), July Term, 1886, 5 pp.
- 3.2 *Proceedings of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of McLean County, Illinois* (Printed), March 5, 6, and 7, 1923, 16 pp.

### Folder 4: Citizen's Handbook

- 4.1 *McLean County Citizen's Handbook*, published by the League of Women Voters of McLean County, 1966, 24 pp. (2 copies).
- 4.2 *Citizen's Guide to McLean County Government*, published by the League of Women Voters of McLean County, 1976, 28 pp.

**Folder 5: Referendums**

- 5.1 Newspaper notice, Vote No on Fairview Nursing Home proposal, Committee for Better Planning for Health Care for the Elderly, no date.
- 5.2 Three newspaper notices, December 16, 17, 19, 1971, \$2.7 million in bonds for County Nursing Home.
- 5.3 Flyer, Vote No March 18 (2014?), McLean County School Sales Tax.
- 5.4 Flyer, Vote Yes for March 18, 2014. McLean County Schools.

**Folder 6: Officers, Officials, Appointees**

- 6.1 McLean County Coroners 1831 to present, 2 pp.
- 6.2 McLean County Coroners 1831 to 1900, with dates of death, 1 pp.
- 6.3 Notes on McLean County Coroners, burial / cemetery locations, etc., 2 pp.
- 6.4 Appointments to Special Authorities, Boards, Commissions, etc., revised February 28, 1986, 20 pp.
- 6.5 McLean County Clerks 1865 to 2018, compiled by Museum Library volunteer Rochelle Gridley, October 2018, 1 p
- 6.6 List of Officers of McLean County, from McLean County Centennial-Arrowsmith Battlefield-Historic Stewart House and other Historic Papers, Vol. IV, 1936, pp. 51-58,

**Folder 7: Special Courts**

- 7.1 McLean County Recovery Court Advisory Board, brochure, 2017.
- 7.2 McLean County Drug Court, "The Road to Recovery," brochure, 2017.
- 7.3 Veterans Treatment Court, Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois, brochure,
- 7.4 Eleventh Judicial Circuit Veterans Treatment Court Graduation, program, May 7, 2019

**Folder 8: Directory Booklets**

- 8.1 1919-20
- 8.2 1930
- 8.3 Brown cover, P.A. Guthrie, County Clerk, no date.
- 8.4 Yellow cover, C.B. Carlock, County Clerk, circa 1931-1933.
- 8.5 1933-34
- 8.6 1935-36
- 8.7 1937-38
- 8.8 1938-39
- 8.9 1940-41
- 8.10 1943-44
- 8.11 1947-48
- 8.12 1965-67
- 8.13 1967-69
- 8.14 1969-71
- 8.15 1971-73

8.16 1973-75

**Folder 9: Directories, Other**

- 9.1 1896-97
- 9.2 1941-42
- 9.3 1954-55
- 9.4 1970-71
- 9.5 1978-80
- 9.6 1976-80
- 9.7 2016

**Folder 10: Political Parties**

McLean County Democratic Central Committee

- 10.1 1932-33
- 10.2 1952-53
- 10.3 1954-55
- 10.4 1958-59
- 10.5 1970-72
- 10.6 1986-88
- 10.7 1988-90
- 10.8 2016-17
- 10.9 2018-20

McLean County Libertarian Central Committee

- 10.10 2018-20

McLean County Republican Central Committee

- 10.11 2018-20

**Folder 11: McLean County Emergency Management Agency**

- 11.1 Richard Carrel's Radio Equipment Owned by McLean County, memo and custody receipt, 21 August 1983, 2 pp.
- 11.2 Correspondence, Jim Wahls, Director, McLean County Emergency Management & Disaster Agency, to Steve Brienens, County Sheriff, and Miles Ward, County Firemen's Association, regarding Hazardous Materials Containment Unit, 14 May 1985.
- 11.3 Correspondence Jim Wahls, Director, McLean County Emergency Management & Disaster Agency, to Justice Committee Members, 22 May 1985 (includes news clippings).
- 11.4 Tribute by Carol Tyler for McLean County ESDA for Richard Carrel, 20 Nov 1992.
- 11.5 Correspondence, Steve Brienens, County Sheriff, to Jim Wahls, Director, McLean County Emergency Management & Disaster Agency, 29 Mar 1993.

- 11.6 Correspondence Jim Wahls, Director, McLean County Emergency Management & Disaster Agency, Steve Brienen, County Sheriff, regarding National Security Exercise—Operation Hostage, 5 Apr 1993.
- 11.7 Correspondence to McLean County History Museum regarding Town of Normal civil defense sirens, 1 May 2022.

### **Folder 12: Jail**

- 12.1 Booklet, (photocopy), “Evolution of the Jail of McLean County, Illinois” by Ezra M. Prince (Bloomington: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1899).
- 12.2 “Jails in McLean County and their Changing Requirements,” undated, 10 pp. (apparently a different version of an Ezra Prince article published in *Transactions*, Vol. II, 1903.)

### **Newspaper Articles** (*Pantagraph*, unless noted)

- 12.3 “New Jail,” May 28, 1857, p. 3.
- 12.4 “The New Jail,” June 12, 1857, p. 3.
- 12.5 “County Jail,” *Weekly Pantagraph*, October 28, 1857, p. 3.
- 12.6 “County Jail,” April 22, 1858, p. 3.
- 12.7 “Prison Life,” November 18, 1863, p. 4.
- 12.8 “The McLean County Jail,” May 31, 1875, p. 3.
- 12.9 “What Bloomington Needs,” *Daily Leader*, January 6, 1876, p. 4.
- 12.10 Note on escape from “calaboose,” *Daily Leader*, June 10, 1878, p. 4.
- 12.11 Note on excavation of jail lots, *Weekly Pantagraph*, July 23, 1880, p. 1.
- 12.12 “A Work House for Jail Birds,” November 14, 1883, p. 4.
- 12.13 “Feeding City Prisoners and Tramps,” December 9, 1893, p. 7.
- 12.14 “With the Jail Birds” (Mme. Annette column), *Daily Bulletin*, February 16, 1899, p. 6.
- 12.15 “Long Time Jailer. Remarkable Record of James Swaim of the County Bastile,” *Daily Bulletin*, November 25, 1902, p. 4.
- 12.16 “Historic Building Sold. Old Jail Property Transferred,” December 18, 1913, p. 6.
- 12.17 “County Jail Inmates Must Go To Church,” *Pantagraph and Bulletin*, December 10, 1927, p. 3.
- 12.18 “Jails Improve with Decades,” August 26, 1930, p. C-11.
- 12.19 Scan of illustration from August 26, 1930 article showing first four jails.
- 12.20 “Few Question Necessity to Build New Jail,” November 13, 1972, p. A-3.
- 12.21 “Like a Dungeon... The Old County Jail Served out Its Time,” March 13, 1977, p. A-7.
- 12.22 “Jail. An Empty Shell with a History,” February 28, 1982, p. A-5.

### **Folder 13 Sheriff Publications**

- 13.1 “Narcotics Identification Guide-John King, Sheriff”
- 13.2 “Official Coloring Book -McLean County Sheriff’s Department,” 26 pp.
- 13.3 “Ready to Serve & Protect 24 Hrs. A Day-McLean Co. Sheriff’s Dept.,” 32 pp.
- 13.4 “How You Can Help Combat Crime - McLean Co. Sheriff’s Dept.,” 24 pp.
- 13.5 “School Bus & Bicycle Safety Coloring Book- McLean Co. Sheriff’s Dept.,” 25 pp.

**Folder 14 Sheriff Miscellaneous**

- 14.1 Annual Report, 1984. 5 pp.
- 14.2 "Cheney Thomas, First Sheriff of McLean County," by Sara Cushing
- 14.3 "Sheriffs of McLean County," by Sara Cushing
- 14.4 Electioneering material, Walter Nierstheimer for Sheriff card, 1938
- 14.5 Electioneering material, Jim Houchens for Sheriff card, 1966
- 14.6 "Pouch of Life" samples (2)
- 14.7 "McLean County Reentry Directory," McLean County Sheriff's Office, 2 pp.
- 14.8 "McLean County Reentry Resource Fair Flyer," 2023, 1 pp.

**Folder 15: Circuit Court**

- 15.1 "McLean County Circuit Clerks 1831 to 1991," 1 pp.
- 15.2 "McLean County Circuit Clerks 1831 to 1899," 1 pp.
- 15.3 "Bar Docket of the McLean County Circuit Court 1897," 48 pp.
- 15.4 "Darkness to Light- Children's Advocacy Center/CASA brochure"
- 15.5 "Court Appointed Special Advocates(CASA) Volunteer Flier"

**Folder 16: County Parks**

- 16.1 "Evergreen Lake – COMLARA County Park Brochure," circa 1990, 2 pp.
- 16.2 "S.H. West County Park Brochure," circa 1990, 2 pp.

**Folder 17: McLean County Public Building Commission**

- 17.1 Public Letter regarding forming of a Public Building Commission by W. B. Price, 1966.
- 17.2 "History of the McLean County Public Building Commission" by R. Porter, 2014, 5 pp.
- 17.3 Brochure, Celebrating 50 Years Public Building Commission of McLean County, 2017, (2 copies).

**Folder 18: Solid Waste Management/Recycling**

- 18.1 Correspondence – Bruce Ehrich, Solid Waster Mgmt. Coor. reg. Phase II a pp., 1989, 26 pp.
- 18.2 Correspondence –Mark Dravillas, Solid Waster Mgmt. Coor. reg. Display, Oct 27 1989, 9 pp.
- 18.3 "Waste Not, Want Not" Solid Waste Management Program Newsletter, Fall 1997, 5 pp.
- 18.4 "McLean County Recycles" Solid Waste Management Program Newsletter, Fall 1993, 5 pp.