

McLean County Museum of History

McLean County WWII Memorial Collection

Processed by
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Fall 2014

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1993-1997; mostly 1995-1997
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

Brief History

The WWII Memorial Committee was formed in the fall of 1994 after Normal Mayor Paul Harmon noticed there was a memorial for local soldiers killed in every war except the Second World War. Those serving on the committee were Richard Beal (chair of the committee, First Bank of America); Dave Hawkinson (Chamber of Commerce); Greg Koos (McLean County Historical Society), and Bill Wills (*Pantagraph*). Local architect Gene Asbury volunteered to create the design of the memorial, and Jim Meek of Felmley-Dickerson Construction volunteered his company's help. Construction of the memorial began during late summer 1997 and was later completed that fall. The memorial dedication ceremony took place on the Saturday before Veterans Day 1997.

Scope

The collection includes newspaper articles, names of volunteers, construction planning and sketches, correspondence between contractors, dedication ceremony program drafts, lists of names for the memorial inscription, committee notes, logos, and other material.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Memorial / WWII History

- 1.1. "WWII Memorial Committee According to Lynn Simpson," interviewed by Preston Hawks, February 1998. 1 p. (2 copies)
- 1.2. October 10th, 1997: Typed resolutions for WWII Fountain Memorial
- 1.3. World War Two Activities on the Courthouse Square

Folder 2: Newspaper Articles

- 2.1 January 1st, 1944: *The Daily Pantagraph*; list of men reported killed, MIA, or POW
- 2.2 June 22nd, 1995: *The Pantagraph*; "World War II memorial spurs can-do attitude"
- 2.3 February 5th, 1997: *Twin City Community News*; "Local Veterans: WWII Memorial long overdue"
- 2.4 August 15th, 1999: *The Pantagraph*; "News clippings bring home story of war dead"

Folder 3: Volunteers

- 3.1 October 28th, 1997: List of monument volunteers and contractors; sent from Mike Matejka to Greg Koos and Rich Beal
- 3.2 *Union News*; "Thank You – Memorial volunteers"
- 3.3 *Union News*; "Thank You – Memorial volunteers," copy

Folder 4: MCC / EDC Planning Team Notes

- 4.1 November 22nd, 1994: Meeting agenda; Legion update, concepts / location, organizational support, timetable, sponsorship, fundraising
- 4.2 January 19th, 1995: Meeting agenda; public feedback, design concept, research of McLean County veterans, funds solicitation
- 4.3 February 2nd, 1995: Meeting agenda; fact sheet, contributions, project cost, fundraising
- 4.4 March 16th, 1995: Meeting agenda and handwritten notes; project cost projections, fundraising efforts
- 4.5 April 27th, 1995: Meeting agenda; fundraising efforts, marketing ideas
- 4.6 May 18th, 1995: Meeting agenda; fundraising efforts, marketing ideas
- 4.7 September 26th, 1995: Meeting agenda; fundraising efforts
- 4.8 October 31st, 1995: Meeting agenda; fundraising efforts, construction schedule materials
- 4.9 October 31st, 1995: Meeting agenda; fundraising efforts, construction schedule materials; copy
- 4.10 February 23rd, 1996: Meeting agenda; fundraising efforts, construction timeline, personalized "bricks"
- 4.11 March 28th, 1996: Meeting agenda; fundraising efforts

- 4.12 April 26th, 1996: Meeting agenda; fundraising efforts, construction timetable
- 4.13 November 15th, 1996: Meeting agenda; fundraising efforts, construction timetable, marketing plan
- 4.14 December 13th, 1996: Meeting agenda; fundraising efforts, construction timetable, marketing plan
- 4.15 March 19th, 1997: Meeting agenda; fundraising efforts, memorial update, construction timetable, marketing plan
- 4.16 May 30th, 1997: Meeting agenda; fundraising efforts, construction timetable, marketing plan
- 4.17 June 24th, 1997: Meeting agenda; fundraising efforts, construction timetable, dedication ceremony
- 4.18 July 31st, 1997: Meeting agenda; fundraising efforts, construction timetable, dedication ceremony
- 4.19 September 26th, 1997: Meeting agenda; fundraising efforts, construction status, dedication ceremony

Folder 5: Landscaping

- 5.1 Letter from Sam Vandegrift to Paul Harmon concerning a plan for the Boy Scouts to plant a protective shrub barrier above the memorial
- 5.2 Letter from Sam Vandegrift to Paul Harmon concerning a plan for the Boy Scouts to plant a protective shrub barrier above the memorial, copy
- 5.3 October 22nd, 1995: Letter from Sam Vandegrift to Greg Koos concerning presenting his case to the McLean County Board
- 5.4 Sam Vandegrift's design, concept, benefits, and costs of his landscaping plan

Folder 6: First of America Correspondence

- 6.1 May 14th, 1996: From Richard Beal to Greg Koos; note of thanks
- 6.2 March 11th, 1997: From Richard Beal to Greg Koos; reminder for next Citizens' World War II Memorial Committee
- 6.3 June 3rd, 1997: From Richard Beal to Greg Koos et al.; notice for upcoming meeting to discuss construction timetable
- 6.4 June 3rd, 1997: From Richard Beal to the McLean County WWII Memorial Citizens Committee; notice for upcoming meeting to discuss construction timetable, meeting schedule for June
- 6.5 October 2nd, 1997: From Richard Beal to Jim Meek concerning sales tax on purchases for memorial
- 6.6 November 10th, 1997: From Richard Beal to Greg Koos; invitation to Citizens' Committee meeting celebration of memorial

Folder 7: WWII Exhibits

- 7.1 Script of exhibit
- 7.2 November 11th, 1993: Invitation for opening ceremony of Heartland Home Front and America's Fight for Democracy
- 7.3 Schedule of Events for Heartland Home Front and America's Fight for Democracy
- 7.4 November 12th, 1993: WWII Victory Ball invitation
- 7.5 1996: Downtown Heritage Festival Calendar of Events

7.6 Exhibit stationary; 6 copies

Folder 8: Fundraising

- 8.1 “Dear Old Timer” letter concerning location of memorial and funds
- 8.2 “Dear Community Member” letter from the WWII Committee; Mike Renolds story, location of memorial, funds; copies included
- 8.3 “Dear Community Member” letter from the WWII Committee; 50th year anniversary of the end of WWII, location of memorial, funds; copies included
- 8.4 WWII McLean County Memorial fact sheet
- 8.5 WWII McLean County Memorial letter and mail-in donation card; copy attached
- 8.6 July 21st, 1994: Tourism Attraction Grant Program guidelines from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs
- 8.7 May 2nd, 1995: Press release; details of memorial, fundraising
- 8.8 May 17th, 1995: Fax from Impact Communications; information concerning direct mail solicitation letters
- 8.9 Letter from Saint Mary’s School (Bloomington); aluminum can drive to raise funds for memorial
- 8.10 Letter from Wendy (Impact Communications) to Greg Koos concerning version of solicitation letter
- 8.11 June 21, 1995: Quote from Direct Impressions; parameters for mailing list of consumers, cost of list, pieces to send, postage; count audit included
- 8.12 July 5th, 1995: Direct Impressions estimate
- 8.13 WWII Memorial Fund Drive; potential corporate donors with contacts
- 8.14 Facts concerning memorial and request for support

Folder 9: Felmley-Dickerson Correspondence

- 9.1 July 2nd, 1997: Sent to Rich Beal at First of America Bank; information on changing / adding additional names to the monument, changes to monument, anticipated arrival of granite
- 9.2 July 15th, 1997: Sent to Mark Huber of Bloomington Building Safety Department; information on the construction of memorial, building permit
- 9.3 July 22nd, 1997: Sent to Don Manley of Manley Monuments; Four Freedoms changes; letter from Gene Asbury attached
- 9.4 July 28th, 1997: Sent to Gene Asbury; Letter of Transmittal
- 9.5 Sent to Rich Beal at First of America Bank; concerning building permit
- 9.6 August 13th, 1997: Sent to Don Manley of Manley Monuments; concerning measurements, changes; letter from Gene Asbury attached
- 9.7 August 20th, 1997: Sent to Don Manley of Manley Monuments; changes in names, *Pantagraph* final list
- 9.8 September 24th, 1997: Sent to WWII Memorial Committee; shipping date

Folder 10: Miscellaneous Costs

- 10.1 April 13th, 1995: Sent to Greg Koos from Gene Asbury; costs of materials and speculated cost of donated labor
- 10.2 July 15th, 1997: Sent to John Zeunick (County Administrator) from Greg Koos; sidewalk material costs

- 10.3 Handwritten note; Norman Rockwell Four Freedoms poster costs
- 10.4 October 17th, 1997: Norman Rockwell poster order form for Lewis & Bond Fine Art
- 10.5 November 14th, 1997: Sent to Greg Koos from John Bowles; insurance coverage

Folder 11: Miscellaneous Correspondence

- 11.1 January 24th, 1995: Sent to Greg Koos from Ralph W. Johnson; concerning his brother Evert D. Johnson who was shot down during WWII; envelope attached
- 11.2 April 3rd, 1995: Sent to Vince from Budd V. L. Fairfield; Veteran concerns about memorial
- 11.3 Handwritten note; concerning Earl Anderson and stone
- 11.4 "Conspiracy and Deceit;" open letter by Randall L. Smith concerning location of the memorial

Folder 12: Archaeological Dig

- 12.1 Plans for salvage archaeological project on the east side of the Old McLean County Courthouse; copy attached

Folder 13: Dedication Ceremony Activities (Rough Drafts)

- 13.1 Handwritten notes; activities during dedication ceremony; several versions attached
- 13.2 Handwritten sketches; layout of dedication ceremony; several versions attached
- 13.3 Handwritten notes; ceremony set-up preparation
- 13.4 Proposed WWII Dedication Program
- 13.5 Program rough draft
- 13.6 Dedication Ceremony for the McLean County World War II Memorial draft
- 13.7 Dedication Ceremony "Historical Remarks" by Museum Executive Director Greg Koos

Folder 14: Bids and Permits

- 14.1 January 30th, 1995: Bid Conditions / Confirmation Proposal and Contract from Cold Spring Granite Company; sketches and terms and conditions attached
- 14.2 August 8th, 1997: Commercial Building Permit from the City of Bloomington

Folder 15: Construction Planning Team Minutes

- 15.1 June 16th, 1997: Project Meeting notes; granite order, shop drawings, salvage archaeology project, Historical Society costs, landscaping, permit, construction necessities, tax exemption, utilities, insurance, water service,
- 15.2 June 16th, 1997: Construction Planning Team notes; construction time table; copy attached and salvage archaeology proposal included

Folder 16: FDR's "Four Freedoms" Speech

- 16.1 FDR's Speech
- 16.2 Encyclopedia entry of the "Four Freedoms"

Folder 17: Memorial Dedication Ceremony Programs

- 17.1 November 8th, 1997: Official Dedication Ceremony programs; copies attached
- 17.2 Program drafts; copies attached

Folder 18: Memorial Inscriptions

- 18.1 July 27th, 1995: List of names to inscribe on memorial
- 18.2 Additional names
- 18.3 Names sent to Bill Wills; different memorial logos on the front
- 18.4 January 20th, 1997: Sent to WWII Memorial Committee from Gene Asbury; concerning inscription panels
- 18.5 July 17th, 1997: Sent to WWII Memorial Committee from Gene Asbury; name formatting on panels
- 18.6 July 21st, 1997: Sent to Jim Meek from Gene Asbury; Four Freedoms changes
- 18.7 September 3rd, 1997: Sent to WWII Memorial Committee from Jim Meek; list of names
- 18.8 September 6th, 1997: Sent to Don Manley of Manley Monuments from Jim Meek; list of names
- 18.9 September 23rd, 1997: Sent to Jim Meek of Felmley-Dickerson Company from Don Manley of Manley Monuments; delivery date
- 18.10 Inscription draft
- 18.11 Final list of names

Folder 19: WWII Memorial Citizens Committee

- 19.1 December 13th, 1994: Meeting notes
- 19.2 August 30th, 1995: Meeting notes; fundraising
- 19.3 February 19th, 1996: Meeting announcement
- 19.4 May 8th, 1996: Invitation to discuss memorial progress
- 19.5 May 17th, 1996: Meeting announcement
- 19.6 June 25th, 1996: Memo; Downtown Bloomington Heritage Festival, fundraising
- 19.7 September 19th, 1996: Meeting announcement
- 19.8 Meeting announcement

Folder 20: Handwritten Notes

- 20.1 Handwritten notes by Museum Executive Director George Koos; 16 pages

Folder 21: Logos

- 21.1 Memorial logos; 2 copies