

McLean County Museum of History

Merwin Collection

Inventoried by
Carol Straka
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	One Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1899-2000
PROVENANCE:	Marjorie Merwin, Loring Merwin's widow, donated these items in 1998.
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:	Photos – People –Earhart Photos – People – Merwin

Brief History

A Bloomington native, Loring C. Merwin served as publisher of the *Pantagraph* for over three decades. He worked at the family-owned newspaper that was founded by his great grandfather Jesse Fell.

Merwin was involved in other media undertakings as well as local organization such as ParkLands Foundation.

In 1935, he wed Marjorie Sward; in 1972 he died at age 68.

Please consult his obituary in Folder 1 for more info.

Scope Note

This collection includes a selection of materials which his widow, Marjorie Merwin, donated. Newspaper clippings, tributes to ancestors, an encounter with Amelia Earhart and other items comprise this small collection.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: General biographical

- 1.1.1 "Heart attack fatal to Loring Merwin, *Pantagraph*, 6 Sep 1972.
- 1.1.2 "Marjorie Merwin," obituary in *Pantagraph*, Nov 2000.
- 1.1.3 Letter to "Barbara" from unidentified concerning Ives and Merwin families.

Folder 2: Fannie Fell's Will and Bequest

- 1.2.1 Copy of Will, 13 June 1927, 3 pp. Stipulates disposition of original manuscript of Autobiography of Abraham Lincoln, 1859.
- 1.2.2 "Lincoln Autobiography, Written Here, Called 'Third Most Valuable Document,'" *Pantagraph* reprint 18 Oct 1931, 2 copies.
- 1.2.3 "Lincoln Biography is Bequeathed: Miss Fell Wills it to Public," unknown source and undated.
- 1.2.4 "She Values Lincoln Autobiography Given Her Father by Fell, unknown source and undated.

Folder 3: Amelia Earhart's 1936 Visit

- 1.3.1 Letter from Marjorie Merwin to Pat Hamilton, MCHS Archivist, plus photocopies of accompanying photo of Earhart and Merwins in 1936, May 1998.
- 1.3.2 Western Union telegram from Amelia Earhart to Loring C. Merwin at *Pantagraph*, advising anticipated arrival at Bloomington, 30 Mar 1936.
- 1.3.3 "A Round-the-World Flight Ends in the Pacific," *Life Magazine*, Vol. 3 No. 3, pp 21-25. Concerning Earhart's final flight.

Folder 4: Newspaper Articles

Many are *Pantagraph* articles but not all are identified.

Louis E. Davis, son of H.O. Davis.

- 1.4.1 "Airmen Drop Weathers on Comrade's Grave: Unique Honor to Lieut. Davis," 16 May 1918. Concerning Louis E. Davis.
- 1.4.2 "Lieut. Louis E. Davis of Bloomington Is Killed," undated.
- 1.4.3 "H.O. Davis Gives \$ 10,000 to Legion," 1925, 2pp.
W.O. Davis
- 1.4.4 "W.O. Davis," memorial tribute, undated.
- 1.4.5 Obituary, partial, undated.
- 1.4.6 "Death Calls Long-Time Proprietor of the *Pantagraph*," 23 May 1911.
- 1.4.7 "Funeral of W.O. Davis," 26 May 1911.
Jesse Fell and early Normal
- 1.4.8 "Tells of Normal in an Early Day," 4 May 1922, 3pp. Recollections of B.H. McCann.
- 1.4.9 "Tells of the 'Making of a Republican,'" 2 May 1914, 3pp. Tribute to Jesse Fell by Frances M. Morehouse.
- 1.4.10 "How the Normal University Has Grown," undated.

- 1.4.11 "Honor Long Due to Jesse W. Fell," undated. Naming of city park.
- 1.4.12 "Why Normal School was Located Here," undated.
- 1.4.13 "President Cook on the Fell Memorial," undated.
- 1.4.14 "The Memorial to Jesse Fell, by President Felmley," undated.
- 1.4.15 "Hon. Joseph W. Fifer's Reminiscences," 15 May 1918.
- 1.4.16 "Lodge Honors Man Whose Name It Bears," 18 Feb 1913. Pythians lodge.
- 1.4.17 "The Jesse W. Fell Memorial Gateway," undated.
- 1.4.18 "Jesse W. Fell and Normal Campus," undated.
- Abraham Lincoln***
- 1.4.19 "Local Facts in Lincoln Story," undated, 2pp. Ida Tarbell on "Money Sense" of Lincoln.
- 1.4.20 "Heard Famous 'Lost Speech' at Major's Hall, May 29, 1856." 30 Jan 1923, 2pp. John A. Fulwiller's recollections.
- 1.4.21 "Death of Lincoln's Assassin Recalled," undated. George H. Harris recollection.
- Buffy Ives***
- 1.4.22 Assorted clippings regarding Elizabeth "Buffy" Ives.

Folder 5: Miscellaneous

- 1.5.1 Program for "A Dinner Commemorating the Opening of the David Davis Mansion to the Public," 10 Feb 1961.
- 1.5.2 Brochure: "The David Davis Mansion," circa 1960s.
- 1.5.3 Letter of the Editor from John F. Cook, 31 Apr 1914, 6 pp. Tribute to Jesse Fell.
- 1.5.4 "Some of the Influences Which Led to the Founding of the Normal University," by J.H. Burnham, delivered at the Founder Day banquet, 18 Feb 1909, 15 pp.
- 1.5.5 "In Memory of Eliza B. Davis," obituary and tributes to Mrs. Wm. O. Davis, 1900
- 1.5.6 "Memorial on Jesse W. Fell," from *Transactions of the McLean County Historical Society, Vol. I*, 1899, p 338-351.
- 1.5.7 "Speech Delivered by Gen. Patton Before Invasion," with accompanying note from Marjorie Merwin.
- 1.5.8 "Talk to ParkLands Annual Meeting," by Mark Wyman, 8 Oct. 2000, 5pp.
- 1.5.9 "The Mackinaw: Ensuring Citizens Have A Voice." 10 pp booklet from the Mackinaw River Partnership, undated.

Folder 6: Russian Bonds

Four letters from A.B. Leach & Co. Inc., a Chicago investment securities firm, to L.B. Merwin of Pasadena, CA, concerning Merwin's purchase of Russian government bonds, Nov 1920-May 1921.
 Plus account cards and 30 Oct 1919 typed note on the changed circumstances. And, Russian government 5 ½% short-term War Loan issued in 1916 for 2,000,000,000 roubles plus accompany bond coupons.