

McLean County Museum of History

John Moore Collection

Processed by
Jill Barth
Fall 2025

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1808-1914
RESTRICTIONS:	None
PROVENANCE:	Donated by Carla Knobloch
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:	Some materials from a previous folder collection of materials relating to John Moore

Brief History

John Moore was born September 8, 1793, in Grantham, Lincolnshire, England. His parents died when he was young, and he was apprenticed to a wheelwright in Sibsey, England. At about age 18, he left England for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, before returning and beginning his trek to the United States.

He arrived in Alexandria, VA, eventually making his way to Cincinnati, OH, where he married Gabrilla Minzer. They had eight children together and eventually moved to Indiana for a short period and then to McLean County in 1830. Moore served as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Mexican War, and worked as a schoolteacher and postmaster, among other occupations. His elected offices include Justice of the Peace (1831), Illinois House of Representatives (1836-1840), Illinois Senate (1840-1842), Lieutenant Governor (1842-1846), and Illinois State Treasurer (1848-1857). He was a member of the Democrat Party.

After politics, he became a trustee of the Illinois Central Railroad. In April 1866, he underwent an operation to restore his failing eyesight which permanently marred his health. He died September 23, 1866, at age 72 in Boston, with his cause of death attributed to disease of the prostate and kidney. He is buried in Randolph Township. Throughout his life, he was known as “Honest” John Moore by the public.

Scope

The collection consists of an 1808 indenture, correspondence, receipts, certificates, deeds, and other papers authored by or related to John Moore, most dating from 1820s to 1860s.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: General Information

- 1.1 Article (8.5" x 11;" photocopy), “Honest John Moore: Randolph Township’s Immigrant Farmer, War Hero and Constitutional Officer” by Jack Keefe, *Gleanings*, McLean County Genealogical Society, Bloomington, Illinois, Fall 2007, pages 1, 46-57.
- 1.2 “City and County”, *The Pantagraph*, September 29, 1866. re: “The Funeral of Lieutenant Governor John Moore
- 1.3 “Gov. Moore’s Sword: The Historical Society has it,” *The Pantagraph*, May 24, 1905, page 5.
- 1.4 “John Moore, County’s Early Military Leader, Statesman”, *The Pantagraph*, June 4, 1944, page 4, re: “Tomb of One Time Public Figure Is In Randolph Plot.”
- 1.5 “Home of Lt. Gov. Moore was near Randolph”, by Sunny Portree, unknown source, March 18, 2021, page 6.
- 1.6 Website Download, “about the office of lt. governor”, unknown source, undated, re: “Fun Facts: Illinois Lieutenant Governors in History.”

Folder 2: 1808-1830

- 2.1 Document (16" x 12.5;" printed with handwritten entries), Indenture of Apprenticeship, John Moore to Henry Teesdale, May 5, 1808.

- 2.2 Document (7.5" x 4.5;" handwritten), Receipt, 25 March 1822-25 May 1823, re: "Rented a house of Mrs. Baldwin."
- 2.3 Document (7.5" x 4.5;" handwritten), Tax Receipt, 1824, re: "State Tax on 454 acres"

Folder 3: 1831-1839

- 3.1 Document (12.5" x 15;" printed with handwritten entries), Justice of the Peace Certificate confirming appointment of John Moore, signed by Governor John Reynolds, and Secretary of State A. P. Field, McLean County, Illinois 10 September 1831.
- 3.2 Letter (15" x 11.75;" handwritten), Isaac Baker, to John Moore, Esq., Representative from McLean County, Vandalia, Illinois, 1834 [?], re: opinion of the auditor in reference to the delinquent tax list.
- 3.3 Document (15" x 12.5;" printed with handwritten entries), Justice of the Peace Certificate confirming appointment of John Moore, signed by Governor Joseph Duncan, and Secretary of State A. P. Field, McLean County, Illinois, 31 August 1835.
- 3.4 Document (15" x 12;" printed with handwritten entries), School Land Sale Certificate from School Commissioner and Agent for McLean County, Illinois, to John Moore, signed by Joseph Duncan, Governor, A.P. Field, Secretary of State, and Levi Davis, Auditor of Public Accounts, 14 November 1835.
- 3.5 Letter (15.5" x 12;" handwritten), Samuel Rees, Connersville, Indiana, to John Moore, Esq., Randolph Grove, McClane [sic], Illinois, 8 August 1836, re: Death of Richard Pasewater.

Folder 4: 1840-1849

- 4.1 Letter (15" x 9.5;" handwritten), Sidney Breese, Mound Farm, Clinton Co., [Illinois], to Honorable John Moore, Bloomington, McLean Co, [Illinois], 24 September 1840, re: "... Congratulations ... for your success in the last election"
- 4.2 Letter (15" x 9.5;" handwritten), Charles Oakley, Tremont, Illinois, to John Moore, Bloomington, McLean Co, Illinois, 25 January 1842, re: Nomination for Lieutenant Governor.
- 4.3 Letter (15" x 12;" handwritten), Aniston Gouge, Miller's Settlement, Decatur, Illinois, to Honorable John Moore, Bloomington, McLean County, Illinois, 14 February 1842, re: Running for Lieutenant Governor.
- 4.4 Letter (15.5" x 9.75;" handwritten), "Your Friend" [?], Bloomington, Illinois, to John Moore, Esq., Springfield, Illinois, 21 January, 1843.
- 4.5 Unknown Sender, Washington, D.C., to Gov.[sic] John Moore, Randolph Grove, McLean Co, Illinois, 20 April 1846, re: Candidacy for Congress.
- 4.6 Document (16" x 12.5;" printed with handwritten entries), Commission Certificate confirming appointment of John Moore as 1st Lieutenant in the 4th Regiment, signed by Governor Thomas Ford, and Secretary of State Thompson Campbell, 3 June 1846.
- 4.7 Letter (15" x 12;" handwritten), Unknown Sender, Chicago, Illinois, to George McGlovill [?], Bloomington, McLean Co, Illinois, 3 October 184?, re: Prospect of being "Clerk" [of the County Court?] replacing John Moore.

Folder 5: 1850-1859

- 5.1 Letter (7.5" x 10;" handwritten; gray paper), Unknown Sender, Springfield, [Illinois], to Unknown Recipient, 13 August 1850, re: Location regarding the "Central R.R.."

- 5.2 Document (8" x 10;" handwritten; gray paper), John Moore's swearing-in oath for Treasurer for the State of Illinois. 10 January 1853, re: "I do solemnly swear that I have not fought a duel"
- 5.3 Document (13.5" x 17;" printed with handwritten entries), warranty Deed from William E Mannen, to John Moore, signed by E.H. Rood, Clerk of the County Court, 19 March 1855, re: Two separate parcels: 80 acres and 12 acres, both in McLean County, Illinois.
- 5.4 Letter (15" x 9.5;" handwritten), A. H. Chartrain [sp?], advocate of the Imperial Court of Paris, Paris, France, to "The Head of the Department of Finances for the State of Illinois, at Springfield", 28 May 1856, re: Previously unanswered letter about collecting monies from the liquidation of the House of Banque Etrangere.
- 5.5 Letter (9.75" x 5;" handwritten; gray paper), Plp (?) Spain, Springfield, Illinois, to Hon. John Moore, June 1857, re: coupons to be cashed.

Folder 6: 1860-1914

- 6.1 Letter, John Moore, Heyworth, [Illinois], to Enoch J. Moore, 29 April 1861, re: His son's election to 1st Sergeant in his Company.
- 6.2 Letter (7" x 8.5;" handwritten), J.A. Cutter, Illinois, to E.J. Moore, Esq., 23 September 1866, re: Death of his father, John Moore.
- 6.3 Document (8.5" x 6.75;" printed with handwritten entries) receipt, E.J. Moore, Proprietor Bloomington Linseed Oil Works, 302 East Clay Street, Bloomington, Illinois, 1877.
- 6.4 Letter (8.5" x 6.75;" printed with handwritten entries) E.J. Moore, to "My darling Emma", Written on Receipt Form of E. J. Moore, Bloomington Linseed Oil Works, 302 East Clay Street, Bloomington, Illinois, 4 October 1881, re: A hanging after the shooting of Teddy Franks; and paying some professors
- 6.5 Letter (5.75" x 3.75;" handwritten: including envelope), Emily M.C., Normal, Illinois, to George Champion Jr, Foosland, Illinois, 26 May 1914, re: Not coming out this week.
- 6.6 Letter (5.75" x 3.75;" handwritten; including envelope), John Moore, Springfield, [Illinois], to Enoch J. Moore, Bloomington, Illinois, 12 February, re: George going to Missouri; and "... I have no money now to give you to buy land with.."