

**McLean County Museum of History**  
**William J. O'Hara Collection**

Inventoried January 2020

**Collection Information**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1886-1962
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:	See also oversize collection for two certificates of recognition.

**Brief History**

William J. O'Hara (1896-1986) was born in the Hudson area, the son of Owen and Johanna O'Neil O'Hara. A lifelong farmer, he also served in the Army in France during WW I. Back home, he played baseball with the Foresters of the Catholic League (ca. 1915-1930). During WW II he served on the local Selective Service Board. A member of Epiphany Catholic Church, he was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery in Bloomington.

**Scope**

This collection includes an eclectic mix of materials from O'Hara and his family, including his parents' 1886 marriage certificate, materials from his work with the Selective Service, baseball score book from a local league team, political correspondence, farming record books and receipts, and other items.

## Folder Inventory

### **Folder 1: Parents (Owen O'Hara and Hannah O'Neil O'Hara)**

- 1.1 Marriage Certificate for County of McLean, 11 May 1886.
- 1.2 Marriage Certificate for Catholic Church, 11 May 1886. Handwritten list of family deaths on reverse, 1893-1944.
- 1.3 Modern Woodmen's Blooming Grove Camp No. 110 Resolutions of Respect in memory of Owen O'Hara who died 30 Nov 1944.
- 1.4 Receipt for payment on 1-year subscription to Bloomington Bulletin, 1897

### **Folder 2: WWI**

- 2.1 TS on SS Euripides, undated.
- 2.2 "A Service for Overseas Veterans," by Troopship Photos, undated. Order form for photos of troopships.
- 2.3 Photo of Euripides from Troopship Photos, undated. Handwritten note about O'Hara travelling to France on this vessel.
- 2.4 Photo postcard from Normandy, France, from O'Hara to his mother. Undated but clearly WWI.

### **Folder 3: Baseball Score Book, 1924**

For local Hudson team.

### **Folder 4: Church-Related**

- 4.1 Page from book/booklet with Biblical illustrations and images.
- 4.2 "Priceless Cross for Catholics" a descriptive key of the images and a prayer, undated.
- 4.3 Prayer to St. Joseph, undated.
- 4.4 "Mission Remembrance of the Redemptorist Fathers," undated.
- 4.5 Prayer to Our Lady of Victory, undated.
- 4.6 "A Joyous Easter," undated.
- 4.7 Tickets to Lawn Fete, 1902 Aug 18. Benefit of New Convent for Dominican Sisters.
- 4.8 Published poem "My Crucifix" by Veronica O'Hara, April 1930.
- 4.9 Purgatorial Society enrollment of Miss Kathleen O'Hara in leatherette booklet form, undated.

### **Folder 5: Stelle Correspondence**

- 5.1 John Stelle of McLeansboro IL to Wm J O'Hara on getting employment for Mrs. Carrol, 5 Apr 1943. Envelope.
- 5.2 O'Hara at Hudson to Stelle at McLeansboro enclosing letter from Dr. A. T. Spath about obtaining a copy of Bulletin No. 44 and the Chiropractic Assn, 20 Apr 1943.
- 5.3 Copy of letter of O'Hara at Hudson to Stelle at McLeansboro with Mrs. Carroll's address, info about Dr. Spath, and Capt. Kane's address, 20 April 1943.
- 5.4 First page of copy of a spicy letter to Stelle on McLean County political elections and personnel, including complaints on Stelle not following his recommendations, 19 Jan 1948.
- 5.5 Carbon of letter from R.D. Ross at Normal to Stelle at Brazil, IN, on politics including request for Wm O'Hara, Art Kane's brother in law, to get a patronage job, 15 Nov 1948.

**Folder 6: Farming Receipts**

- 6.1 For sales of corn and beans to Hudson Grain Co, (4) 1941 & 1977.
- 6.2 For sales of corn to Towanda Grain Co, (2), 1955.
- 6.3 For purchase of parts from Bloomington Tractor, 1962.

**Folder 7: Farm Account Books**

- 7.1 1939
- 7.2 1967
- 7.3 1979. Includes receipts such as grain settlement sheet from Hudson Grain, bulls sold to or via Bloomington Livestock Commission, bank statements for Lillian O'Hara, etc.

**Folder 8: Selective Service**

- 8.1 From Deputy State Director Bittinger to Clerk Roy Taylor at Bloomington regarding request for list of all US Army camps to be distributed to local boards and use of Form 47, 26 Apr 1941.
- 8.2 Clerk Roy Taylor at Bloomington to O'Hara at Hudson regarding James J. McGowan of Colfax who refused to complete his questionnaire and is currently jailed in Springfield, 13 Nov 1941.
- 8.3 Carbon of Clerk Roy Taylor to unspecified about Major Rodger deciding future location for three boards related to the Selective Service. Rodgers chose 166 S. Main, the "old Beck place." 4 Feb 1942.
- 8.4 State Procurement Officer W A Rodger to O'Hara at Hudson about a conference with board member, local manufacturers, et al in Peoria, 9 Jul 1942.
- 8.5 Copy of note (writer and addressee not specified) about not needing another meeting now, 24 Jul 1944.
- 8.6 "Statement to Whom it May Concern," in which O'Hara as Chair of local board grants Clerk Roy Taylor power of attorney any time O'Hara is absent, undated.
- 8.7 Illinois House Joint Resolution No. 40 recognizing service of local Selective Service Boards, 3 May 1945. Related certificate of recognition can be found in our Oversize Collection.
- 8.8 Twenty-eight (28) letters and documents regarding travel reimbursement for O'Hara, 1940-44.

**Folder 9: Veteran's Assistance Manual**

- 9.1 Veteran's Assistance Program Manual, Selective Service System (Illinois), Jan 1945.

**Folder 10: Miscellaneous**

- 5.1 Preferred stock certificate for McLean County Service Company, one share, 1 Dec 1957.
- 5.2 Handwritten letter from Bob Nelson of Bickwell, IN, to O'Hara at Hudson regarding his health including nervous breakdown, 2 Jun 1954. Envelope. O'Hara notes that they served in the same WWI squad in France.
- 5.3 Holiday postcard for Lillian O'Hara at Gridley from W C Schneider, 1910-11
- 5.4 Two handwritten cards from Edward Clancy family, undated.

**Loose Rolled Items**

Five (5) rolled certificates in appreciation for O'Hara participation on selective service board, for 1948, 1952, and 3 undated.