

McLean County Museum of History

Packard Family Collection

Processed by
Rochelle Gridley
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1841-2008
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 Civil War Era Correspondence Collection.

Brief History

The Packard family was from Bolton in Quebec, Canada. Brothers Charles (MD), Walter, Jesse, Frank and Major all moved to Bloomington in the 1840s and 1850s. They were businessmen as well as accomplished singers and belonged to the spiritualist church. Major Packard made several contributions of papers to the McLean County Historical Society. Frank and Major Packard both served in the Civil War and their correspondence during the war is in the Civil War Era Correspondence Collection.

Scope

Correspondence in this collection includes early letters between Margaret Baker (later Packard) in the 1850s when she briefly lived in Iowa City to the death of Margaret Packard in 1924. Also included in the collection are six historical papers on the early settlement of McLean County presented in the early 1900s.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: General

- 1.1 Obituary for Mrs. Margaret S. Packard, *Pantagraph*, 12 Nov 1924.
- 1.2 Obituary for Frank A. Packard, *Pantagraph*, 23 May 1911.
- 1.3 Obituary for M.W. Packard, *Pantagraph*, 2 Mar 1903.
- 1.4 Obituary for Jesse B. Packard, *Pantagraph*, 29 Mar 1866.
- 1.5 Funeral notice, Charles R. Packard, *Pantagraph*, 11 Apr 1883.

Folder 2: Packard Brothers (singing group)

- 2.1 "The Packard Concert," *Pantagraph*, 6 Mar 1865.
- 2.2 Ad: "Grand Vocal and Instrumental Concert," *Pantagraph*, 4 Mar 1865.
- 2.3 Ad: "A Great musical treat coming," *Pantagraph*, 28 Jan 1871. (Marie Packard singing as guest)
- 2.4 Email from Alan Lewis regarding Packard Brothers (singing group), 21 Jan 2008. 2pp.
- 2.5 Bibliography of songs by J.B. Packard (from defunct website), Jan 2008. 3pp.
- 2.6 Email from Alan Lewis regarding Packard genealogy, 21 Jan 2008. 2pp.

Folder 3: M.W. Packard Historical Papers

- 3.1 "From Boston to Bloomington in 1844," presented to Historical Society, undated. (Handwritten and typed manuscripts)
- 3.2 "John Wells Dawson and Anna Cheney Dawson," presented to Historical Society, Aug 1901. (Handwritten and typed manuscripts)
- 3.3 "Peter Folsom," presented to Historical Society, Feb 1901. (Handwritten and typed manuscripts)
- 3.4 "Spiritualism," handwritten, undated.
- 3.5 "Early Migration to California, 1849 – 1850," by M.W. Packard and Greenberry Larison, Sr., reprinted in 1928. 13 sheets.

3.6 "Prairie fires," undated, (Handwritten and typed manuscripts)

Folder 4: Property and Personal Tax records

- 4.1 Approximately 25 property and personal tax receipts for Frank Packard, Margaret Packard and John Moore (1857 - 1899.)
- 4.2 Two Certificates of Redemption for lands redeemed by Frank Packard in 1869 and 1870 after losing lawsuits. Both apply to lots in Majors Seminary Addition in Bloomington.

Folder 5: Historical paper by C.S. Beath

- 5.1 Letter from Franklin Price to M. W. Packard disputing statements in historical paper entitled "Days Long Ago," 4 Oct 1901.
- 5.2 Historical paper by C.S. Beath on founding of Village of McLean, with letter disputing the statements in the paper, undated.
- 5.3 Handwritten copy, "The Early History of McLean, IL." By C.S. Beath, undated.

Folder 6: Correspondence to Margaret Packard

- 6.1 Letter to Margaret Packard at Bloomington from Aunt Mary (New Boston), after Margaret's marriage. Mentions how Margaret was going to "set her cap" for Frank Packard, 8 Mar 1852. Plus envelope.
- 6.2 Letter to Margaret Packard from Agnes at Bloomington regarding spiritualist church and "sittings," neighbors, etc., 13 Jan 1878. Plus envelope.
- 6.3 Letter to Cousin Edith from Adda at Bushnell IL, 23 June 1884.
- 6.4 Letter to Cousin Maggie from unknown (perhaps Bertha Ranney?) in Bushnell, 22 Jun 1884. Concerns earning money with boarders and sewing projects, her father's fragile health, etc. Envelope presumably for this letter addressed to Maggie Packard in Bloomington c/o Frank Packard. Includes small piece of fabric.
- 6.5 Letter to Miss Mary Baker in Iowa City from Elizabeth Munsell (Bloomington), 1 Jan 1842.
- 6.6 Letter to Mary Baker from H.L. Munsell and Elizabeth Munsell (Bloomington), 24 Dec 1841. Concerns party held earlier in December, lack of sleighing, plastering of house, asking cousins to return from Iowa.
- 6.7 Letter to Edith from parents, Margaret and Frank Packard at Bloomington, undated. Concerns family news, travel arrangements for Edith, etc.