

McLean County Museum of History

David C. Ross Collection

Processed by
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	3 boxes
COLLECTION DATES:	1872 - 1938
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:	

Brief History

David Claypool Ross (1851-1938) was a teacher, lawyer, lecturer and businessman, living in Bloomington during much of his adult life. At times he was known as Davis Ross. Born in Ohio in 1851, Ross first moved to McLean County in 1855. He attended the LeRoy Seminary and at the age of 15, entered Illinois Wesleyan University. After four years there, he taught school and lectured during the fall and winter seasons. In 1882 he started working for attorney Joseph W. Fifer; beginning in 1883, he studied law under William Haynie and A. E. DeMange. Ross was admitted to the bar in February 1885. Around 1890 he moved to Paxton, Illinois, and was engaged in mercantile and real estate businesses. In 1894 he was nominated for Ford County States Attorney but was defeated. Returning to McLean County in 1895, he opened a law practice in Bloomington. Ross married Martha (Mattie) Buckles of LeRoy in 1871. At the time of his death in September 1938, he resided at 823 E. Market Street, Bloomington.

Scope

The collection includes diaries from 1872-1937 that record the daily weather, personal and some business activities, and opinions of people and current events. Notes on the lectures that Ross gave are also a major component. His legal business files are only a small part of the collection.

Box and Folder Inventory

Box 1

Folder 1: General

1.1.1. Obituary, *Daily Pantagraph*, 18 March 1965.

Folder 2: Advertising Fliers

1.2.1 Orange flier advertising a lecture titled "Individual Prosperity" by Mr. D. C. Ross. Undated. [2 copies]

1.2.2 Beige flier advertising a lecture titled "Individual Prosperity" by Mr. D. C. Ross. Undated. [2 copies]

1.2.3 Flier advertising residential lots for sale in Bloomington. O. B. Harris. Undated.

Folder 3: Baby Book

1.3.1 "The Book of Baby Mine". Verse and decorations by Melcena Burns Denny. 91 pp. [no entries]

Folder 4: Booklets

1.4.1 Palmer Method of Handwriting. The A. N. Palmer Company. Undated.

1.4.2 Traver's Broom Corn Culturist and Broom Makers' Manual. By R. A. Traver, Charleston, IL. 32 pp.

1.4.3 Cookbook containing recipes made with Rumford Baking Powder. Undated. Incomplete.

1.4.4 "The Avon Outlook," magazine for representatives and supervisors of The California Perfume Co., Inc. and Avon Products, Inc. March 27-April 16, 1934. 12 pp.

Folder 5: Civil Service School

1.5.1 Letter to D. C. Ross from R. E. Perry, President, National Civil Service School, Inc., undated, 2 pp.

1.5.2 Envelope addressed to D. C. Ross from National Civil Service School, Inc., Continental Building, Washington, D. C., postmarked May 21, 1919.

1.5.3 Flier "Special Announcement: Examinations to be held in 1919, for men and women," National Civil Service School. Undated.

1.5.4 Flier "Price-List and Plan of Payment," National Civil Service School, Inc. Undated.

Folder 6: Legal Matters

1.6.1 Envelope from Clerk of the Appellate Court, Third District. Addressee lined out, Jackson Thomas Insurance Papers written in. Handwritten notes on back.

1.6.2 Release of Martha Ross to Davis C. Ross. Handwritten [draft?] legal text. Undated.

1.6.3 Handwritten note to Mr. Ezra M. Prince re asking for loan of money. March 3, 1876.

1.6.4 Handwritten copy of Charles Rabell promissory note. October 1, 1897.

1.6.5 Handwritten receipt to D. C. Ross by Chris J. Will. May 7, 1924.

Folder 7: Letter Books - Copies of Letters and Notes

1.7.1 Handwritten copies of letters and notes. Jan. 1, 1903 – March 26, 1903. [Bound together]

1.7.2 Handwritten copies of letters and notes. Feb. 21, 1903 – March 24, 1903. [Bound together]

1.7.3 Handwritten copies of letters and notes. March 31, 1903 – April 13, 1903. [Bound together]

1.7.4 Handwritten copies of letters and notes. April 22, 1903 – June 25, 1903. [Bound together]

1.7.5 Handwritten copy of letter to H. S. Niles. June 25, 1903. 5 pp.

1.7.6 Handwritten copies of letters and notes. Sept. 1, 1903 – Jan. 1, 1904. [Bound together]

1.7.7 Handwritten copies of letters and notes. Oct. 14, 1903 – Dec. 9, 1903. [Bound together]

1.7.8 Handwritten copy of letter to M. Tyrrell. Dec. 14, 1903. 5 pp.

1.7.9 Handwritten copies of letters and notes. Includes autobiographical history with dates. Dec. 21, 1903 – Dec. 30, 1903. [Bound together]

1.7.10 Handwritten copy of letter. August 3, 1903.

Folder 8: Medical Information

1.8.1 Booklet: The H. R. Allen National Surgical Institute. Indianapolis, Indiana. Undated.

1.8.2 The Herbalist Almanac. 1934. 64 pp.

1.8.3 Pamphlet. What is Swamp-Root? Copyright 1900-'03.

1.8.4 Flier. How to Get Swamp-Root.

1.8.5 Letter to D. C. Ross, from Dr. Kilmer & Co. January 27, 1905.

1.8.6 Certificate of Purity for Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root. April 26, 1898.

Folder 9: Miscellaneous Ephemera

- 1.9.1 Account receipt book. Dec. 4, 1930 – April 20, 1905. “Fred C. Salmelor, 804 E. Front Street” written on reverse front page.
- 1.9.2 Prize drawing ticket at Colonial Theatre. .
- 1.9.3 Blotter, Lang-Fuller Printing Company.
- 1.9.4 Test Questions – General Review in Geography
- 1.9.5 Handwritten note [illegible].
- 1.9.6 Letter (incomplete) from J. Anter, National Secretary, National Unemployment Council.
- 1.9.7 Envelope (no address) from The Alton Railroad Company.
- 1.9.8 National State Bank blank check.
- 1.9.9 “Article of Agreement to Raise and Feed Hogs”, Nov. 9, 1873. With envelope.
- 1.9.10 Letter to David C. Ross from Franklin County Coal Company. August 6, 1928.
- 1.9.11 Scrap with MMS. Mattie Ross, LeRoy, Ill. handwritten on it.
- 1.9.12 Two-sided scrap of handwritten notes re climate and soil on one side and Negroes on the other side.
- 1.9.13 Handwritten scrap possibly of activities or reminders.
- 1.9.14 Scrap of numerical calculations.
- 1.9.15 Business card, Gere & Philbrick, with handwritten note.
- 1.9.16 Note from B. N. re hotel Nickerson in Heyworth, IL.
- 1.9.17 Handwritten scrap [illegible].
- 1.9.18 Letter to Martin Harmon, Bloomington, Ill. From Leonard Darbyshire, Inc. Dec. 15, 1909.
- 1.9.19 Envelope addressed to Martin Harmon from Leonard Darbyshire, Inc. Postmarked Dec. 15, 1909.
- 1.9.20 Confidential List No. 13 – Businesses, Leonard Darbyshire, Inc. List of prospective buyers.
- 1.9.21 Confidential List of Prospective Buyers. Every Day Life magazine.
- 1.9.22 Handwritten diagrams on reverse of Orient Insurance Co. letterhead.
- 1.9.23 List of items on reverse of Geo. F. Hoffmann, Ph.G. drugs, paints, oils, stationery, school books and sundries. Pesotum, IL.
- 1.9.24 Handwritten note recalling youthful sexual passions
- 1.9.25 Handwritten note to Mr. H. Stewart from D. C. Ross. Undated.
- 1.9.26 Handwritten note “To Chicago” about selling cattle.

Folder 10: Newspaper Clippings

- 1.10.1 “Death comes to Aaron Livingston.” *Daily Bulletin*, September 15, 1916.
- 1.10.2 “Divorce suit and injunction.” *Daily Bulletin*. Photocopy, p. 1. Undated.
- 1.10.3 Baker’s 2-in-1 Tire Shop advertisement, *Daily Bulletin*. Undated.
- 1.10.4 “John Gay of Leroy is found competent to handle business.” Newspaper unknown. July 9, 1929.
- 1.10.5 Advertisement of “Briscoe’s Battle of Gettysburg” at Durley Theatre, Bloomington, Ill., Wednesday, February 5 [no year] in form of a newspaper sheet.

Folder 11: Northwestern Benevolent and Mutual Aid Association

- 1.11.1 Northwestern Benevolent and Mutual Aid Association receipt.
- 1.11.2 Northwestern Benevolent and Mutual Aid Association membership application.

- 1.11.3 Northwestern Benevolent and Mutual Aid Association report of application and agent's statement of remittance. September 6, 1882.
- 1.11.4 Northwestern Benevolent and Mutual Aid Association brochure "New Features". Copy 1
- 1.11.5 Northwestern Benevolent and Mutual Aid Association brochure "New Features." Copy 2
- 1.11.6 Northwestern Benevolent and Mutual Aid Association brochure "New Features" "Special Classes".
- 1.11.7 Northwestern Benevolent and Mutual Aid Association application for special class. Copy 1
- 1.11.8 Northwestern Benevolent and Mutual Aid Association application for special class. Copy 2.
- 1.11.9 Northwestern Benevolent and Mutual Aid Association application for special class. Copy 3
- 1.11.10 Northwestern Benevolent and Mutual Aid Association application.
- 1.11.11 "Guaranteed 5 per cent, 20-year endowment bond." Issued by The Prudential Insurance Company. Form 273.

Folder 12: Notes – Agriculture

- 1.12.1 Handwritten notes on farming, 1874. 18 pp. [Bundled together]
- 1.12.2 Handwritten notes on farming, "Businesses" title on first page, June 17, 1874. 24 pp. [Bundled together]
- 1.12.3 Handwritten notes on hotels, farming, "Business" title on first page, July 13th, 1874. 24 pp. [Bundled together]
- 1.12.4 Handwritten notes on farming, "Business" title on first page, August, 1874. 20 pp. [Bundled together]
- 1.12.5 Handwritten note titled "Personal" on first page. 2 pp.

Folder 13: Notes – Character

- 1.13.1 "Char. No. 4." Handwritten notes in writing tablet
- 1.13.2 "Char. No. 5." Handwritten notes in writing tablet
- 1.13.3 "Char. Demoralization: Want as affecting the character." Handwritten notes [Clipped together]

Folder 14: Notes – Experience

- 1.14.1 "Experience: Introduction." Handwritten notes [Clipped together]
- 1.14.2 "Experience: The Wedding." Handwritten notes [Clipped together]
- 1.14.3 "Experience: Dependence upon others." Handwritten notes [Clipped together]
- 1.14.4 "Experience: Educational overrides intellectual." Handwritten notes [Clipped together]
- 1.14.5 "Experience: Inventors, authors, explorers et al." Handwritten notes [Clipped together]
- 1.14.6 "Experience: Dependence upon others." 5pp. Handwritten notes [Clipped together]
- 1.14.7 "Experience: Plans based upon Knowledge from Experience" Handwritten notes [Clipped together]
- 1.14.8 "Experience: The question to be answered" Handwritten notes [Clipped together]
- 1.14.9 "Experience: Examples of will and purpose" Handwritten notes [Clipped together]
- 1.14.10 "Experience: Practice special training:" Handwritten notes [Clipped together]
- 1.14.11 "Experience: Introductory" Handwritten notes [Clipped together]
- 1.14.12 "Experience: Those who profit by Perseverance" Handwritten notes [Clipped together]

1.14.13 "The Christian Herald and Signs of Our Times." Pp. 459-460, July 17, 1889.

Folder 15: Notes – Miscellaneous Writings

- 1.15.1 "Lectures on Culture of the Mind." Handwritten scrap.
- 1.15.2 "Stays in room up over Pruitts." Sunday, May 2, 1880 to June 5, 1880. Handwritten notes [Clipped together]
- 1.15.3 "Personal: Constant persecution." Handwritten notes [Clipped together]
- 1.15.4 "Suicide" Handwritten notes. 2 pp.
- 1.15.5 "Books/8thPage." Handwritten notes. 4 pp.
- 1.15.6 "Copy Book When Small Boy." Handwritten notes [Illegible] [Bundled together]
- 1.15.7 "My motto has ever been...". 2 pp. Handwritten notes.
- 1.15.8 [No title, numbered 12.] Handwritten notes. 2 pp.
- 1.15.9 [No title, pages numbered 13-22]. Handwritten notes
- 1.15.10 "Talk About Books." Handwritten notes. 4 pp.
- 1.15.11 "Books." Pages numbered 5-15. Handwritten notes.
- 1.15.12 "Bad Habits." Handwritten notes. 4 pp.
- 1.15.13 [No title, pages numbered 21-30.]
- 1.15.14 [No title, pages numbered 5-12.]
- 1.15.15 "Personal." 5 scraps of handwritten notes all titled Personal. [Bundled together].
- 1.15.16 "Gym." 3 scraps of handwritten notes. [Clipped together].
- 1.15.17 Handwritten note beginning "we the undersigned...", Bloomington, Ill., June 2, 1883.

Folder 16: Notes – Personal

- 1.16.1 "Personal." April 16, 1878. Handwritten notes. [Bundled together].
- 1.16.2 "Personal." Nov. 16, 1878. Handwritten notes. [Bundled together].
- 1.16.3 "Personal." Feb. 17, 1877. Handwritten notes. 2 pp.
- 1.16.4 "Personal." Dec. 11, 1879. Handwritten notes. 2 pp.
- 1.16.5 "Perscuit" [?] Scrap, handwritten note.

Folder 17: Notes – Preparations and Temptations

- 1.17.1 "Part V – Preparations and Temptations." [Title on scrap]
- 1.17.2 "Preparation." Handwritten notes. [Bundled together].
- 1.17.3 "Preparation: Results of weak preparation." Handwritten notes. [Bundled together].
- 1.17.4 "Preparation: Too much Confidence causes neglected Preparation...." Handwritten notes. 2 pp.
- 1.17.5 "Section VII. – Temptations." Handwritten notes. [Bundled together].

Folder 18: -- Pencil Drawings

Scratch pad with pencil drawings, some signed by Charles Moorman. One poem included.

Box 2

Folder 1: Diaries

- 2.1.1 1872-Jan.-Aug.

Folder 2: Diaries

2.2.1 1872-Aug.-1873-Apr.

Folder 3: Diaries

2.3.1 1876-May-Oct.

Folder 4: Diaries

2.4.1 1876-Nov.-1877-Jan.

Folder 5: Diaries

2.5.1 1877-Apr.-July

Folder 6: Diaries

2.6.1 1877-July-Sept.

2.6.2 1877-Sept-Oct.

Folder 7: Diaries

2.7.1 1877-Oct.-Nov.

Folder 8: Diaries

2.8.1 1877-Nov.-1878-Feb.

Folder 9: Diaries

2.9.1 1878-Feb.-Apr.

Folder 10: Diaries

2.10.1 1878-July-Oct.

Folder 11: Diaries

2.11.1 1878-Dec.-1879-Feb.

Folder 12: Diaries

2.12.1 1879-May-Sept.

Folder 13: Diaries

2.13.1 1880-June

2.13.2 1880-Sept.-Dec.

2.13.3 1880-Dec.

2.13.4 1881-Jan.

Folder 14: Diaries

2.14.1 1881-Jan.-Feb.

2.14.2 1881-Feb.-Mar.

2.14.3 1881-Mar.-Apr.

Folder 15: Diaries

- 2.15.1 1881-Apr.-May
- 2.15.2 1881-May-June
- 2.15.3 1881-June

Folder 16: Diaries

- 2.16.1 1881-June-July
- 2.16.2 1881-July-Aug.
- 2.16.3 1881-Aug.-Sept.

Folder 17: Diaries

- 2.17.1 1881-Sept.-Nov.
- 2.17.2 1881-Nov.-Dec.

Folder 18: Diaries

- 2.18.1 1882-Jan.
- 2.18.2 1884-May-1886-Mar.
- 2.18.3 1886-Mar.-May

Folder 19: Diaries

- 2.19.1 1887-Oct.-1889-Jan.
- 2.19.2 1889

Folder 20: Diaries

- 2.20.1 1893-July-1894-May

Folder 21: Diaries & Expenses

- 2.21.1 1893-Mar 1895

Folder 22: Diary & Mgt. Notes

- 2.22.1 1895-Mar-1896-Jan

Folder 23: Diaries & Expenses

- 2.23.1 1897; 1898-Jul-1899-May

Folder 24: Diaries and Expenses

- 2.24.1 1900-Aug
- 2.24.2 1899-May-1900-Jan.
- 2.24.3 1900-Jan.-Dec.

Folder 25: Diaries and Expenses

- 2.25.1 1901
- 2.25.2 1902

Folder 26: Diary

- 2.26.1 1904

Box 3

Folder 1 – Law Book

3.1.1 Law Book 4

Folder 2 – Notebooks

3.2.1 1897-Advancement No. 7

3.2.2 Miscellaneous Notes

Folder 3 – Real Estate and Loans

3.3.1 Real Estate and Loans

Diaries, 1905-1919; 1922-1926; 1928-1930; 1935-1937