

McLean County Museum of History

Saybrook Schools Collection

Processed by
Lucas Chase
Spring 2026

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1894-1989
RESTRICTIONS:	None
PROVENANCE:	This collection is a combination of Vertical File folders relating to Saybrook schools, as well as a gift of Melanie Turnipseed Kenney, March 2026
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

The first school in Saybrook was a log cabin built in 1830. In 1864, school directors worked to build a combined school and church with the Methodists. Eventually, the school took over the entire building, being named Saybrook Academy. In 1895, a new building was erected and classes were held there until 1928. Saybrook Community High School followed, and in 1952, Saybrook and Arrowsmith schools consolidated. The original 1928 Saybrook Community High school building continued to be used under the name Saybrook-Arrowsmith High School until 1989.

Scope

The collection includes commencement programs, lists of students and alumni, school publications, and more. The earliest item dates to 1894, but alumni lists go back to 1888. The most recent items are from the final (1989) class of Saybrook-Arrowsmith High School. The collection includes a scrapbook of school memories from the early 1930s.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Gift Agreement and Inventory

- 1.1 Notepad with Melanie Turnipseed Kenney's contact information and notes.
- 1.2 "McLean County Historical Society Gift Agreement," 3 pp.. Description of gift with typed inventory of items, including the Shann scrapbook (below), a large collection of photos, and Madge Cary Turnipseed's research into Saybrook and Cheney's Grove.

Folder 2: Alumni Lists

- 2.1 Untitled, 6pp. single-sided sheets. List of alumni organized by year from 1926-1955.
- 2.2 1962 Collection of Alumni, 27pp. 8 ½" by 14" single-sided sheets. List of alumni from Saybrook Community High School from 1888-1952, Arrowsmith Community High School from 1910-1952, and Saybrook-Arrowsmith Community Unit District from 1953-1962 with addresses of alumni or marks where they are deceased. Annotated with recent deaths and addresses. (Cover page, intro page, pages 1-14, and 22-25).
- 2.3 1962 Collection of Alumni, 16pp. 8 ½" by 14" single-sided sheets. List of alumni from Saybrook Community High School from 1888-1952 with addresses of alumni or marks where they are deceased. Annotated with recent deaths and addresses. (Cover page, intro page, and pages 1-14).
- 2.4 1962 Collection of Alumni, 23pp. 8 ½" by 14" single-sided sheets. List of alumni from Saybrook Community High School from 1888-1952, Arrowsmith Community High School from 1910-1952, and Saybrook-Arrowsmith Community Unit District from 1953-1955 with addresses of alumni or marks where they are deceased. Annotated with recent deaths and addresses. Missing cover page. (Intro page and pages 1-22).

- 2.5 1962 Collection of Alumni, 4pp. 8 ½" by 14" single-sided sheets. List of alumni from Saybrook-Arrowsmith Community Unit District from 1953-1962 with addresses of alumni or marks where they are deceased. (Pages 22-25).

Folder 3: Class Photos

- 3.1 "Freshman Class History," 8 ½" by 11" cardstock. Taped photograph of class with teacher and thirteen students with list of names and short recap of the school year.
- 3.2 "Sophomore Class History," 8" by 6 ¼" sheet. Taped photograph of class with list of names.
- 3.3 Untitled, 10" by 8" photograph of class with list of names taped on. Photograph has many students and two teachers.

Folder 4: School Organizations

- 4.1 "Library Staff," 11" by 6 ½" cardstock. Taped photograph with list of nine student names.
- 4.2 "Senior Play Cast," 11" by 7" cardstock. Taped photograph with ten students' and one teacher's names.
- 4.3 "Music," 8 ½" by 11" cardstock. Taped photograph with list of names and short recap of the 1945-1946 school year music program. Twenty-one individuals pictured, twenty names listed (Bob Lopez missing).
- 4.4 "The Totem Staff," 8 ½" by 8 ½" cardstock. Taped photograph with list of names and positions. Twenty-three individuals pictured, twenty-two names listed (Bob Lopez missing).
- 4.5 "The Gypsy Rover: Operetta," Saybrook Community High School Glee Club, April 17, 1925, booklet. Cast, crew, and order of songs.

Folder 5: "Saybrook Schools" – Newspaper/Newsletter Clippings

- 5.1 "New Building," *The Spotlight*, 16pp. double-sided. Saybrook Community High School's students' school newsletter from November 1929 to May 1930. Gift from first class (1930) of the Saybrook Community High School building to the last class in the building, then Saybrook-Arrowsmith High School (1989).
- 5.2 "Saybrook-Arrowsmith Wins Second Place at County Tournament," newspaper clipping, January 30, 1958. Picture of basketball team with names of coaches and players listed, and brief description of placings in tournament.
- 5.3 Untitled, *The Saybrook Gazette*, March 6, 1975. Picture of Saybrook-Arrowsmith High School's girls' basketball team with names of instructor and students listed along with the season's game schedule.
- 5.4 "Girls win basketball trophy," *The Saybrook Gazette*, March 18, 1976. Picture of Saybrook-Arrowsmith High School's girls' basketball team with names of students, managers, and coach. Description of team's win at Rankin Invitational tournament.
- 5.5 Untitled, *The Saybrook Gazette*, March 10, 1977. Picture of Saybrook-Arrowsmith High School's girls' basketball team playing and a description of game played against LeRoy. Verso has a cut-off picture of the S-A JV boys' team and a description of two trophies won by the team.
- 5.6 Untitled, *The Saybrook Gazette*, September 21, 1977. Introduction to six faculty members at Saybrook-Arrowsmith High School.

- 5.7 Untitled, *The Saybrook Gazette*, December 22, 1977. Picture of Saybrook-Arrowsmith varsity volleyball team with names of students, manager, and coach listed. They are pictured with a trophy from winning the Kickapoo Conference. Below is a picture of a co-ed volleyball team with the same coach.
- 5.8 Untitled, *The Saybrook Gazette*, December 29, 1977. The old Arrowsmith School being burnt to use the debris to level out a field.
- 5.9 “Congratulations! Saybrook-Arrowsmith Class of 1980,” *The Saybrook Gazette*, May 22, 1980. Program for baccalaureate services and graduation, pictures of every student, and brief descriptions of each student and their future plans.
- 5.10 *Saybrook-Arrowsmith Reflections*, May 25, 1989 issue. History of Saybrook-Arrowsmith High School from consolidation and list of all Saybrook-Arrowsmith alumni.

Folder 6: Commencement

- 6.1 “The Graduating Class: 1905,” 4 ¾” by 5 ½” booklet, May 31, 1905. Includes program, graduates, board members, faculty, and Junior class.
- 6.2 “Class of ’08,” 6 ½” by 6” booklet, May 22, 1908. Includes graduates, board members, and program.
- 6.3 “1910: S.H.S.,” 3 ½” by 8” brochure, May 27, 1910. Includes program, graduates, board members, and faculty.
- 6.4 “Class of MCMXI,” 4 ¼” by 6” booklet, May 26, 1911. Includes program, graduates, board members, and faculty.
- 6.5 “Commencement Program at M. E. Church,” 3 ¼” by 6” sheet, May 23, 1912. Includes program and announcements.
- 6.6 “Saybrook High School Class of nineteen hundred and twelve Commencement Exercises,” 3 ½” by 8” sheet, May 23, 1912. Includes announcements.
- 6.7 “Commencement 1912,” 3 ½” by 8” sheet. Includes graduates, class motto, class colors, and class flower.
- 6.8 “Commencement Program of the Saybrook High School,” 3 ½” by 5 ½” laminated sheet, May 20, 1920. Includes program.
- 6.9 “The Senior Class of Arrowsmith Community High School announces its Commencement Exercises,” 5” by 7” booklet, May 31, 1929. Includes graduates, class flower, class colors, and class motto. Two cards tucked in, one has written “I. W. Cundiff,” the other “Esther Cundiff.”
- 6.10 “Saybrook-Arrowsmith High School and Junior High Commencement Exercises,” newspaper clipping, May 25, 1961. Includes program and graduates of both the high school and middle school.
- 6.11 “Commencement Program,” 3 ½” by 8” sheet, undated. Includes program, board members, and faculty.

Folder 7: Miscellaneous

- 7.1 “S.H.S.,” 3 ½” by 8” sheet, blank.
- 7.2 “Souvenir.....” 3 ¾” by 4 ¾” cardstock, July 5, 1894. Includes the seven graduates of the Class of 1890 and is branded with a “good luck” stamp.
- 7.3 “Fiftieth Anniversary,” 5 ½” by 8 ½” booklet. Includes program for reunion dinner and open house, memoriam, graduates, and prayer of thankfulness.

- 7.4 "Reunion Dinner Saturday May 21, 1955: Menue," 5 ½" by 8 ½" sheet. Menu for the reunion dinner with French names attached to each item.
- 7.5 "Fiftieth Anniversary," 5 ½" by 8 ½" booklet. Message to attendees of the fiftieth anniversary open house.

Loose Item:

The Shann: 1931-1932, 9 ¼" by 12 ½" book. Scrapbook loosely bound with twine, with chipped, acidic paper. A hand-drawn illustration precedes each section. Includes a photo of faculty with their names and assignments; photos of the classes of 1932, 1933, 1934, and 1935, with full names, nicknames, and hobbies; photos and programs for dramatic productions, literary contests, and musical contests; 1932 SHS girls' and boys' basketball teams photos and names, schedule, and tournament programs; Smiles section (jokes); Literary Leaves section filled with typed papers; Memories section includes mementos of parties, dances, entertainments; and several pages of calling cards. The final section, "Advertising," includes names of Saybrook proprietors cut from newspapers.