

**McLean County Museum of History**

**Ruth Steele Teaching Collection**

Processed by  
Mary Alice Wills  
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**Collection Information**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1915-48; mostly 1925 - 1928
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:	Also see photos – People – Ruth Steele

## Brief History

Ruth Steele was born January 26, 1906 in Anchor, Illinois, to Ernest and Litta Martin Steele. She attended country grade schools and graduated from Bloomington High School in 1920. Ruth furthered her education by attending Illinois State Normal University teacher's college for two years. She taught in a one room school house – Grant School - in Dry Grove Township. Her collection reflects a dedicated and enthusiastic teacher who was anxious to enrich, enlighten, and challenge her students. Ruth married Edward Hartzold on August 14, 1928. Unfortunately, she was required to resign from her teaching position as the custom of that time would not allow a married woman to teach school. Ruth and Edward eventually raised five children, who no doubt benefited from her teaching career. Ruth Steele Hartzold passed away in 1948.

## Scope

The Ruth Steele Teaching Collection includes the patterns for various holiday displays and posters: Easter, Christmas, Valentine, Presidents, Halloween, and more. There is a collection of bird pictures. There are Christmas and Thanksgiving plays as well as readings of humor and poetry. The subjects of history and music are included as well as travel brochures. Teacher aids and textbooks are included. There are items of personal friendship as well as a photo of the school where she taught along with a class of 1926-27 photo. Her several diplomas from grade schools and high school are included. Also two *Pantagraph* articles: Ruth's wedding announcement to Edward Hartzold in 1928, and her obit in 1948.

## Box and Folder Inventory

### Folder 1: Easter

- 1.1 Manila envelope labeled Easter Handwork containing pieces of construction paper with drawings/copies of tulips, daffodils, chicks, Easter eggs, and rabbits – some colored.
- 1.2 Brown folded tissue paper.

### Folder 2: Birds

- 2.1 *Arbor and Bird Days*, compiled by H. T. Swift, Issued by Francis G. Blair, Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1927, pictures of birds and nature with poetry, 72 pages.

- 2.2 *Your Bird Friends and How to Win Them*, by Joseph H. Dodson, President American Audubon Association, 26 pages.
- 2.3 Manila envelope containing 50 glossy pictures of birds.

**Folder 3: Pumpkins**

- 3.1 Four orange cardboard pumpkins.

**Folder 4: Christmas and Thanksgiving Plays**

- 4.1 *Christmas at Punkin Holler*, by Elizabeth F. Guptill, 1916, Paine Publishing, Dayton, Ohio, 23 pages.
- 4.2 *Christmas at McCarthy's*, by Elizabeth F. Guptill, 1916, Paine Publishing, Dayton, Ohio, 18 pages.
- 4.3 *Pieces and Plays for Christmas Days*, Compiled by Grace B. Faxon, 1916, F. A. Owen Publishing Danville, N. Y., 192 pages.
- 4.4 *Christmas Eve at Mulligan's*, by Marie Irish, 1922, Paine Publishing, Dayton, Ohio, 18 pages.
- 4.5 *Pieces and Plays for Thanksgiving Days*, Compiled by Grace B. Faxon, 1917, F. A. Owen Publishing Danville, N. Y., 192 pages.

**Folder 5: Readings: Humor and Poetry**

- 5.1 *Closing Day Exercises*, compiled and edited by Grace B. Faxon, 1917, F. A. Owen Publishing, Danville, N. Y., 192 pages.
- 5.2 *Catchy Primary Recitations*, by Marie Irish, 1923, Paine Publishing, Dayton, Ohio, 88 pages.
- 5.3 *Dialogues o' Pep and Humor*, by Mayme R. Bitney, 1924, Paine Publishing, Dayton, Ohio, 152 pages.
- 5.4 *Merry Dialogues for Country Schools*, by Clara J. Denton, 1924, Paine Publishing, Dayton, Ohio, 159 pages
- 5.6 *The Christmas Entertainment Book*, by Noel Flaurier, 1925, Paine Publishing, Dayton, Ohio, 144 pages.
- 5.7 *Recitations o' Pep and Humor*, by Noel Flaurier, 1926, Paine Publishing, Dayton, Ohio, 127 pages.
- 5.8 *Old Time Humorous Dialogues*, by Elliott McBride, 1926, A. Flanagan Company, Chicago, 127 pages.
- 5.9 *One Hundred and One Famous Poems*, 1926, R. J. Cook, Pub., Chicago, 186 pages.

**Folder 6: History**

- 6.1 "I.N.S. History Cards, Pictorial History of the U.S.," Series C from Constitution to Civil War, box containing 30 cards.
- 6.2 "I.N.S. History Cards, Pictorial History of the U.S.," Series D from Civil War to Present time (1926), box containing 30 cards.
- 6.3 "Are You A True American?" brochure, pub. Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, 6 pages.

**Folder 7: Music**

- 7.1 "The First Christmas," musical staff and words, one page pasted on black construction paper.
- 7.2 "Unfailing," musical staff and words, one page pasted on black construction paper.
- 7.3 No title, musical staff and words, one page pasted on cardboard.

**Folder 8: Figure, Letter, and Symbol Patterns**

- 8.1 Manila envelope labeled "Patterns," w/ calendar, 1927, construction paper cut-outs, teaching aid articles.
- 8.2 Original and mimeographs of Christmastime symbols, trees, stockings, angels, Magi, etc., Easter/Springtime symbols, flowers, birds, bunnies, chicks, etc., plus patterns for flags, and presidents, Valentine's Day, U. S. maps, and more, 122 pieces.

**Folder 9: Travel Brochures**

- 9.1 Manila folder containing 17 travel brochures, mostly railroad for west coast, Canada and Alaska.

**Folder 10: Teacher Aids/Text Book**

- 10.1 *Questions Problems and Activities from Rural Life at Crossroads*, (no year) by Mary Campbell, Ginn and Company, Chicago, 16 pages.
- 10.2 *Nutrition and Health*, by Helen Rich Baldwin, B.S., 1924, The Borden Company, New York, 79 pages.
- 10.3 *Course of Study with Suggestive Method for Primary Grades*, 1922, Publishers, Board of Education, Springfield, Illinois, 276 pages.

**Folder 11: Personal**

- 11.1 Happy New Year card from Marguerite T. Brokaw.
- 11.2 "Friendship" booklet of verses in gift box to Ruth Steele from Marguerite Brokaw upon graduation, 1924, 63 pages.

## **Folder 12: Ruth Steele Pantagraph newspaper clippings, photos, MCHS Gift Agreement**

- 12.1 Grant School building photo, 1923.
- 12.2 Grant School students photo, 1923.
- 12.3 Grant School students class photo 1926-27.
- 12.4 Ruth Steele photo, 1926.
- 12.5 "Ruth Steele is Bride of Edward Hartzold," Aug. 14, 1928.
- 12.6 "Mrs. Ruth Hartzold" obit, Feb. 10, 1948.
- 12.7 McLean County Historical Society Gift Agreement with Robert Hartzold, March 25, 2004.

## **Folder 13: Miscellaneous**

- 13.1 Handmade two ring, loose leaf notebook 150 pages with notes for different grade level projects and samples.
- 13.2 *The School Law of Illinois*, Issued by John A. Wieland, Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1935, 357 pages.

## **Diplomas**

Perfect Attendance Diploma of Honor, Clinton County Public Schools, the Public Schools of Ford County, 1916  
Certificate of Rank in 1919, the McLean County Common Schools.  
Public School Diploma 1920.  
Bloomington High School, 1924