

McLean County Museum of History

Carlton Collection

Processed by

Carol Straka

Fall 2014

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	3 boxes; approx. 2 1/2 linear feet.
COLLECTION DATES:	1862-1940
RESTRICTIONS:	Fragile items. Request help from Archivist as needed.
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 Photos – Subject – Carlton See also Guy Carlton Photo Collection, photos collected by the family over the years. Much of this collection has been minimally processed to permit faster availability.

Brief History

Guy A. Carlton (1837-1900) began life in Maine and came with his family to Bloomington in 1854. He wed Emily Little in 1859. After a variety of adventures and occupations and war service, he opened a livery stable at Washington and East in Bloomington. In 1889, he built a stable at Douglas and East. A few years later he became part of the undertaking firm Carlton and Beck. Carlton was also active in GAR, having served as a first lieutenant in the 94th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. The Carltons had three children who reached adulthood: Ada Carlton (1860-1920), Guy Carlton (1877-1944) and Clara --Mrs. George—Smith (1867-1914).

Ada Carlton never married and was deeply involved in the Woman's Relief Corps and the Woman's Club. During WWI, she was known as a tireless volunteer with the Red Cross Canteen serving soldiers.

Guy A. Carlton (1877-1944) first became intrigued by electrical work in 1885 when the City of Bloomington had their electrical supply department in the rear of the Carlton barn at Washington and East. That same year his Uncle Sam Carlton and Sam's son Ben opened the first electric light plant in Bloomington. Guy began installing electric door bells and electric gas lights and later opened his own electric business in his father's new barn. In 1895, he partnered with John L. Lemons. Lemons exited in 1897, with Carlton then controlling the entire business. Carlton moved to the Hoblit Building at 526 North Main in 1901. By 1922, he purchased the building and changed its name to the Carlton Building. He rented space in the building to a variety of businesses including Brown's Business College.

Under his leadership, the firm installed the first ornamental street lights in Bloomington – on Main Street. They also provided the power plant for the McLean County Poor Farm as well as serving many businesses, homes, churches, and schools. Carlton was highly active in Rotary Club for many years.

Guy married Elizabeth Foley (1878-1956) and they raised two daughters and a son – a third generation of Guy A Carlton (1912-96).

Upon her death, Elizabeth Carlton left the electrical business to son Guy. She stipulated that the store building be sold and the proceeds split amongst her three children.

Guy (1912-96) attended Illinois Wesleyan and University of Illinois School of Engineering. He became active in the business and assumed leadership when his father's health faltered in the 1940s. Following a 1973 fire in the adjacent Knights of Columbus Hall, the Carlton Electric concern was so fire and water damaged that the business was closed. Two months later Carlton was working for Springfield Electric's Lighting Center in Bloomington.

Guy (1912-96) wed Edith Mueller (1914-2006). She graduated Bloomington High School and earned a BS in Home Economics at Illinois Wesleyan University in 1936. Edith co-owned and operated Carlton Electric.

Scope

Box 1 (1/2 linear foot) includes items from family members including newspaper articles, a Civil War muster roll, G.A.R. booklets and event programs, Carlton livery stable account statements, event invitations, Rotary and other club documents, report cards and commencement programs, personal business invoices, etc.

Boxes 2 and 3 (approximately 2 linear feet) include Carlton Electric business papers such as project quotes, correspondence with customers and suppliers, financial records, union contracts, real estate records, leases of space in the Carlton Bldg, advertising, etc.

Box and Folder Inventory

Box 1: Personal and Miscellaneous

Folder 1: Newspaper Articles Newspaper articles about family members and other interests. In 2014, staff added obituaries for Guy(1837-1900), Ada, Guy(1877-1944), and Elizabeth.

Folder 2: Carlton Livery Stable

- 1.2.1 Business card, undated
- 1.2.2 Barn Warming announcement card, 25 Sep 1890
- 1.2.3 Four account statements from Carlton & Kerr, 1877-86
- 1.2.4 Twenty-nine account statements from G.A. Carlton, 1888-1901
- 1.2.5 Four account statements from Wolcott Co Undertakers, 1893-99
- 1.5.1 One account statement from L.A. White feed dealer, 1900
- 1.5.2 Letter to Ada Carlton from W.C. Wade of Clinton remitting \$20 and explaining why he does not owe this money, 20 July 1906, 3 pp.

Folder 3: Civil War Muster Roll of Capt. Alexander Buscoe's Co. A of 94th Illinois Volunteer Infantry - Col. Wm. W. Orme. From 24 Aug 1862 - 31 Aug 1862, taken at Benton Barracks near St. Louis 31 Aug 1862.

Folder 4: G.A.R. and other war remembrances

- 1.4.1 "G.A.R. Camp=Fire" for the Benefit of the Relief Fund. Programme at Durley Hall, Friday, Dec 18, no year. Includes downtown advertisements.
- 1.4.2 Third Reunion 33 Veteran Association held at Bloomington, Illinois, Sep 7-9, 1881, for veterans of the 33rd Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Includes published minutes and roll of the association members.
- 1.4.3 G.A.R. 22nd National Encampment held at Columbus, Ohio, 4 Sept 1887. Includes General Order No. 3 arranging the parade column and other particulars of the reunion.
- 1.4.4 Letter to Miss Carlton from Gertrude L. Fifer of Executive Mansion, Springfield, IL, concerning Relief Corps entertainment invitation, etc., 2 May 1889.
- 1.4.5 G.A.R. Post 146 program for meeting 14 May 1890.
- 1.4.6 Letter to Ada Carlton from G.A.R. Sheridan Post No. 67 in Nashville, TN, thanking for the donation of \$25 to remember the fallen Illinois soldiers at the battleground cemetery, 20 May 1890.
- 1.4.7 Letter to Miss Ada Carlton from C.S. Cole manufacturer of Silk Society Badges, Chicago, advising form of remittance required, 19 Jul 1890.
- 1.4.8 Meeting program for William T. Sherman G.A.R. Post No. 146 at Turner Hall, 6 Apr 1891.
- 1.4.9 Letter to Ada Carlton from John Kelly at Chicago congratulating her on again being treasurer of the W.R.C. and other matters, 15 Apr 1891.
- 1.4.10 National Decoration Day services of the Kearny Post, No 10, G.A.R. at Cold Harbor National Cemetery and Seven Pines National Cemetery, VA, 30 May 1891.

- 1.4.11 Souvenir Program for Capt. Higgins' *True Blue*, a "historical allegory about life in Dixie before the war," presented at Grand Opera House, 29-31 May 1894. 20 pp including many local advertisements.
- 1.4.12 Typed resolution to the Officers and Members of the Wm. T. Sherman Post 146, G.A.R., offering condolences on death of member Guy A. Carlton on 29 Jan 1900.
- 1.4.13 Letter to "My dear friend" from Emma R. Wallace on stationery of the Woman's Relief Corps, Chicago, offering condolences, 3 Feb 1900.
- 1.4.14 Letter to Mrs. Emma Carlton and family from Wm. T. Sherman Woman's Relief Corp No. 7 at Bloomington offering condolences, 10 Feb 1900.
- 1.4.15 Two letters of condolence to Miss Ada Carlton, one from Lizzie M. Watkins personally and one written by Ms. Watkins on behalf of the Warren Stewart W.R.C. No. 88 at Cairo, IL, both 21 March 1900. 5 pp. combined.
- 1.4.16 Letter to Ada Carlton from Eliz. Means, Dept President of Woman's Relief Corps, Chicago, offering condolences and enclosing General Orders No. 9 dated 5 March 1900 (2 copies), letter dated 29 March 1900.
- 1.4.17 Note to Ada Carlton from Round Regalia Company of Chicago about flag order, 11 Mar 1901.
- 1.4.18 Letter to Ada Carlton from Wm Horstmann Company of Philadelphia concerning flag order, 19 Apr 1901.
- 1.4.19 Letter to Emma Carlton from Wm. T. Sherman Woman's Relief Corps No. 7 at Bloomington offering condolences, 14 Aug 1904.
- 1.4.20 Form letter to "Dear Brother" from Sec-Treas Geo. F. Dick Jr. regarding upcoming quarterly meeting of Bloomington Camp No. 29 Sons of Veterans, 7 January 1910.
- 1.4.21 Form letter to "Dear Brother" from Sec-Treas C.H. Atkinson regarding upcoming quarterly meeting of Bloomington Camp No. 29 Sons of Veterans, 1 April 1910(?)
- 1.4.22 Form letter to Guy Carlton from C.E. Stapp of Peoria regarding upcoming National Convention at Chattanooga, payment of dues, proxies, etc., 11 Jul 1913.
- 1.4.23 Letter to Ada M. Carlton from Wm. H. Horstmann Company of Philadelphia encouraging purchase of a silk flag for the Wm. T. Sherman Post 146, 11 May 1915.
- 1.4.24 Booklet for Fifty-First Annual Encampment of the G.A.R. Dept of Illinois at Bloomington, 6-8 June 1917. 16 pp, 2 copies.

Folder 5: Rotary Club

- 1.5.3 Blotter publicizing 2nd annual conference of 44th District of Rotary Clubs, Peoria, 28-29 April 1927.
- 1.5.4 Letter to Guy Carlton from Bob of Bloomington Assoc. of Commerce thanking for helping arrange Rotary programs, 24 Jun 1930.
- 1.5.5 Letter to Guy Carlton from G R Means confirming Guy's speaking engagement with Rotary Club, 16 Apr 1934.
- 1.5.6 Letter to Guy Carlton from Harry C. Read thanking for flowers from Rotary Club, 6 Jan 1936.
- 1.5.7 Letter to Guy Carlton from W K Bracken returning Dr. Kelso's latest letter to Rotary, 7 Feb 1935.
- 1.5.8 Letter to Guy from John Cunningham of San Diego about recent club roster and CA Pacific Intl Exposition, 6 Jun 1935.

- 1.5.9 Letter to Guy Carlton from W B Clooney at St. Joseph's Hospital, congratulating the "Newly Crowned King of Rotary," 5 Jun 1935.
- 1.5.10 Letter to Guy Carlton from E.D. Funk on Funk Bros. Seed Co. letterhead reminiscing about Guy's father and the stable business and Guy's early interest in electricity, 3 Sep 1935.
- 1.5.11 Letter to Rotary Club from Catherine (Mrs. Paul) Beich thanking for flowers sent to P.F., 2 Feb 1936.
- 1.5.12 Letter to Guy Carlton from Edgar Lundeen(sp?) of Lucy Orme Morgan Home inviting Rotary to a luncheon, 7 Apr 1936.
- 1.5.13 Letter to Guy Carlton from Sven V. Knudsen of Boston, MA, regarding songs of Rotarians visiting European families, 21 Mar 1936. Including brochure.
- 1.5.14 Letter to Rotary Club/President Carlton from Loring C. Merwin of *Daily Pantagraph* thanking for flowers for the open house of the new building, 13 April 1936.
- 1.5.15 Letter from Geo. A Washburn on A. Washburn & Sons letterhead commending Guy on his first year's work in Rotary, 3 Jul 1936.
- 1.5.16 Five Christmas cards from fellow Rotarians, undated.
- 1.5.17 Typed speech on Radio Telegraph and Telephony, undated, 4pp.
- 1.5.18 Handwritten notes with list of Rotary names, etc.
- 1.5.19 Paper dinner napkin from Bloomington Rotary Club, Illinois State Normal University, 23 March 1939.
- 1.5.20 Assembly & Conference program from 44th District Rotary International, 8-9 May 1935.
- 1.5.21 National Rotary materials including Constitution/Bylaw July 1929, club supply catalog, campaign materials, convention, etc..., 7 items.
- 1.5.22 Pantagraph special supplement covering District 12 Rotary Conference at Bloomington, 8 Apr 1920.

Folder 6: Other Clubs and Associations

- 1.6.1 Three programs for Merchants' 500 Block Concerts. Two feature Goforth's Orchestra and the third the Bloomington Band. September 16, 23, and, 30 – no year specified.
- 1.6.2 Letter from Bloomington Business Men's Association regarding the Annual Meeting, 3 January 1910.
- 1.6.3 Invoice from Bloomington Business Men's Association to Guy Carlton for dues for last half of 1910.
- 1.6.4 Bloomington Club blank application for membership plus 30 Nov 1910 letter requesting completion of the application.
- 1.6.5 Postcard notification of Bloomington Club's next Dinner Dance on 25 Dec 1910.
- 1.6.6 Letter from Alonzo Dolan, Chair Special Committee of Commercial Club of Bloomington, Illinois (formerly Bloomington Business Men's Club) installment payment due on notes for Chicago & Alton Extension Fund to buy land needed for C&A funded improvements, 9 May 1913.

Folder 7: Membership Cards, etc.

- 1.7.1 Membership cards from Bloomington Association of Commerce, Bloomington Young Men's Christian Association, Izaak Walton League of American (1930 & 31), Bloomington Illinois Centennial Official Shaver's Permit. Also, Guy Augustus Carlton calling card.

- 1.7.2 Thirteen calling cards from various ladies.
- 1.7.3 Scholar's Certificate of Vaccination for Guy Carlton, age 6 yrs.
- 1.7.4 Christmas card apparently attached to key for a Chrysler Sedan Car from Guy to Wife, 25 Dec 1927.
- 1.7.5 Advertising cards for Carter's Little Liver Pills and Dr. McLean's Strengthening Cordial and Blood Purifier (St. Louis, MO.), undated.
- 1.7.6 Gift tag from bouquet of flowers from M/M Louis Wollrab.

Folder 8: Invitations to Organization Events and Dance Cards

- 1.8.1 Inaugural Hop from Damon Lodge No. 10 K of P at Phoenix Hall, 17 Jun 1874. To M/M Guy Carlton.
- 1.8.2 Last Grand Masquerade Ball of the Season from I.N.G. Company F. 10th Battalion at Armory Hall, 28 Mar 1879. To Miss Ada Carlton.
- 1.8.3 Third Annual Ball and Banquet of Bloomington Division No. 87 Order of Railway Conductors at New Turner Hall, 24 Dec 1885. To G.A. Carlton & Lady.
- 1.8.4 Ball by Employees of Walton Plow Company at New Turner Hall, 25 Jan ?, Proceeds for Ladies' Relief Corps of this City.
- 1.8.5 Halloween Party by Ladies' Auxiliary of the Traveling Men's Association at Turner Hall, 31 Oct 1890. To Guy Carlton.
- 1.8.6 Reception by Women's Relief Corps in Detroit Michigan, 3 Aug 1891.
- 1.8.7 Entertainment by Citizens Executive Board (Pittsburg PA) in honor of Visiting Officers and Delegates to the 28th National Encampment, 12 Sep 1894.
- 1.8.8 Dance Card: Second Annual Ball of Electrical Workers' Union No. 49 at Turner Hall 24 Dec 1894. To M/M Guy A. Carlton.
- 1.8.9 Dance Card: Fourth Annual Ball of Electrical Workers' Union No. 49 at Turner Hall 23 Nov 1896.
- 1.8.10 First Grand Military Masquerade Ball of I.N.G Company F., Tenth Battalion at Armory Hall, 10 March, unknown year.
- 1.8.11 Annual Members' and Contributors' Banquet of Young Men's Christian Association at the Association Rooms, 19 Jan 1900. Includes reply card. To Mr. G.A. Carlton.
- 1.8.12 Thirty-second Annual Convention of Dept. of Illinois Woman's Relief Corps at Lutheran Church in Moline, 1-3 Jun 1915.
- 1.8.13 First Graduating Exercises of the Training School of Nurses of Mennonite Sanitarium Association at First Mennonite Church, Normal, 6 Apr 1922.
- 1.8.14 Handmade booklet of TKE fraternity events at Illinois Wesleyan University for Edith Ernst, undated.

Folder 9: Social Invitations

Events appear to be Bloomington unless otherwise indicated.

General

- 1.9.1 Charles W. Scott to Ada Carlton, 2 July 1815
- 1.9.2 "L.S.D. Club" surprise party for Alice Depew to Ada Carlton, 14 Jan 1878.
- 1.9.3 M.C. Fuller & Nellie Wheeler to Ada Carlton, 31 Dec ?, at McLean, IL
- 1.9.4 M/M J.R. Mason at City Hall, 25 Jan 1889. (Mason is Bloomington mayor)

Wedding Anniversaries

- 1.9.5 M/M R.K. Leech to M/M Guy Carlton, 25th, 20 Mar 1884.
- 1.9.6 M/M W.B. Lawrence, 25th, Aug 1887.

- 1.9.7 M/M Elliott Miller, 25th, 17 Nov 1893. Chenoa.
1.9.8 M/M Isaac Lash to M/M Guy Carlton, 50th, 27 Nov 1895.

Weddings

1.9.9 Twelve wedding invitations or announcements, 1877-99. Includes 1898 marriage of Florence Fifer to Jacob Bohrer.

At Home and Birth Announcements

1.9.10 Two At Home announcements plus 1912 birth announcement for Guy Augustus Carlton.

Folder 10: Bloomington Schools

- 1.10.1 Bloomington High School commencement programme, 10 Jun 1886.
1.10.2 Bloomington High School commencement exercises invitation, 4 Jun 1920.
1.10.3 Bloomington High School commencement program, 6 Jun 1930.
1.10.4 Bloomington Grammar Schools graduating exercises program, Jun 1926.
1.10.5 Six Bloomington Public Schools report cards, 1913-20.

Folder 11: Personal and personal business correspondence

Nineteen letters, largely to family members, 1897-1935. Includes Jan 1935 letter from George B. Kelso at St. Petersburg, FL, to President Heurg concerning grapefruit Kelso picked from his back yard and mailed to Heurg.

Folders 12-13: Personal financial items

Invoices, receipts, correspondence, prospectus for Mid-Continent Oil Refining Company of East St. Louis, etc. for various family members.

Folder 14: Travel literature

Brochures, tickets, business cards, etc. primarily for Midwest US and Australia, 1909-1968. 14 items.

Folder 15: Miscellaneous

- 1.15.1 Card announcing resumption of business at Parkhurst Willow Bark Hospital, Danvers, following repeal of Eighteenth Amendment.
1.15.2 *The Home of Today*, June 1929. Issued by Williams Oil-O-Matic Heating Corp. 15 pp.
1.15.3 *Conservation "Win the War" Issue*, Dec 1942. Issued by State of Illinois Dept of Conservation.
1.15.4 Guy Carlton/Eliz. Foley marriage certificate, 2 Jan 1901. Plus envelope with notes of gifts and donors.
1.15.5 Blotter material sampler with "Don't Monkey with Anything on this Desk" cover.

Box 2: Carlton Electric

General and Miscellaneous (Folders 1-9)

Folder 1: Business History

- 2.1.1 History of how Carlton's interest in electric business developed, undated, 2pp.
2.1.2 Carlton memo regarding formation and dissolution of partnership with John L. Lemons, 1895-97.

2.1.3 Contract and receipt for sale of R.M. Cass's electrical business and goods to Carlton, 10-12 Aug 1901. 2 pp.

Folder 2: Business Cards and Advertisements Four business cards, three blotter advertising cards, installation decals, etc.

Folder 3: Stationery Three styles of letterhead, notepad, blank invoices, work tags, merchandise tags.

Folder 4: Union Contracts Between Local Union No. 197 of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and local electrical contractors, 3 contracts, 1937-38 plus 1915 draft.

Folder 5: C.W. Klemm's Display Window Photo advertisement for National X-Ray Reflector Co. featuring Klemm's display window, undated.

Folder 6: Fixture Sketches Six colored sketches of hanging light fixtures, ¼ full size, undated.

Folder 7: University of Illinois Aerial Photos Four photos with specific items marked for an electrical project, undated.

Folder 8: Automotive Orders for truck and car, etc. 1906-14; financial resolution of auto accident involving Carlton, 1912, etc.

Folder 9: Miscellaneous Copy for advertisement for "One Dollar Bargain Day," 1911; 1926 business license; miscellaneous correspondence 1906-37; info on radio stations, business cards for Jacobs Transfer and American Foundry & Furnace Co., MCHS gift agreement, etc.

Real Estate (Folders 10-12)

Folder 10: Land For lots in Block 18 to Durley's Addition, Bloomington: 2 abstracts of title, 1 examination of title, special assessment notices (early 20th century), sale deeds (1864-1898)

Folder 11: Special Assessment 1927 special assessment letters and invoices for downtown location.

Folder 12: Leases Leases for space in Carlton Bldg and a parking lot. Lessees include Brown's Business College, Yates Company, Unity Center and others. Includes contracts, statements of account, correspondence, maintenance records, etc., 1925-37.

Financial (Folders 13-17)

Folder 13-15: Inventories: 1925, 1939, 1940. 3 folders.

Folder 16: Ledger book: 1893-?, 120 pp. Includes other financial papers. Also includes undated Carlton memo on formation (1895) and dissolution (1897) of Lemon and Carlton

Folder 17: Other financial: Small notebook of expense records for 1933-34; cancelled checks, etc.

Supplier Correspondence (Folders 18-21 & loose items)

Folder 18-21: Correspondence with suppliers Both to and from suppliers. Includes supplier marketing and product brochures. 4 folders.

Loose items: Lamp Sales Reports: Monthly reports of agent's sales of Mazda lamps and inventory prepared by Carlton Electric, 1914-21.

Box 3: Carlton Electric Customer Projects & Correspondence

Major Projects (Folders 1-5)

Folder 1: Edwards School gas electric fixtures, 8 letters, contract, specs, etc., 1904.

Folder 2: McLean County Poor Farm quote and specs for electric light plant. Includes correspondence with suppliers to Carlton Electric. 1909.

Folder 3-4: Bloomington Street Lights: Downtown Square
Correspondence, specs, blueprints, parts lists, etc. for project partly funded by Bloomington Business Men's Association, 1911-12. 2 folders.

Folder 5: Project Specs: Klein's 1928; Brown's Business College 1919.

Other Project Quotations (Folders 6-12) Typed and/or handwritten quotes for primarily local businesses, homes, schools and churches. Many include detailed parts lists, confirmation letters, suppliers' catalogs, etc. Some quotes are addressed to local architects.

Folder 6-7: 1903-04 quotes Two folders Approximately 120 projects.

Folder 8-10: 1915 quotes Three folders Approximately 105 projects.

Folder 11-12: 1927 quotes Two folders Approximately 50 projects. Includes City of Bloomington street lighting project.

Misc Customer Correspondence (Folders 13-15 & loose item)

Folder 13-15: Correspondence with customers Letters, invoices, receipts, etc. Both to and from customers. 3 folders.

Loose Item: Scroll from Franklin School, thanking Carlton for installing radio and loud speaker, 1928.