

McLean County Museum of History

Demotte Collection

Inventoried by
Carol Straka
Fall 2012

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	One Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1857-1904
PROVENANCE:	
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:	Photos – People –DeMotte for photos of daughter and wife only.

Brief History

Born in Illinois on 17 July 1838, Harvey C. DeMotte eventually became a prominent Bloomington resident. In 1856 he entered school at Metamora, Illinois, and in 1859 enrolled at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington. At Illinois Wesleyan's 1861 commencement, H.C. DeMotte and Peter Warner each received a university degree and were the first graduates of this institution. During the 27 June 1861 ceremony, DeMotte spoke on "Progress," explaining the progress of improvements in science and art and referring to the great achievements of genius. While in college, DeMotte was "chiefly instrumental" in organizing a literary society named the Belles-Lettres Society. A mere two years after graduating, DeMotte started the university's alumni association.

After graduation, DeMotte was immediately appointed Professor of Mathematics at the school. His teaching was interrupted in May 1862 when Governor Yates requested 200 volunteers to join a Union army regiment. DeMotte entered the army and became First Lieutenant of Company G, Sixty Eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. The enlistment was for three months, and in October 1862, he resumed his work at Illinois Wesleyan University. During the War, he expanded his duties to become the first music instructor at the Wesleyan.

In 1864, DeMotte wed Sara J. Kern; in 1865 he became the university's Vice President. DeMotte was in charge of a topographical survey of the Green River region with Major Powell in 1874. Syracuse University awarded DeMotte a PhD *in absentia* in 1877. A life-long Methodist, he attended the church's general conference in 1882 and was an active member of the local Grace Methodist congregation.

In 1884 DeMotte left Illinois Wesleyan to become president of Chaddock College in Quincy, Illinois. Returning to the Bloomington-Normal area in 1887, DeMotte became superintendent of the Soldiers' Orphans Home in Normal. In 1893, he became President of the Central Union Loan Association; later he served as Editor of the *Bloomington Daily Leader* for about three years.

In 1899, DeMotte returned to Illinois Wesleyan as principal of the preparatory department. He regained his vice presidency in spring 1904 and held the office until his death. On 15 December 1904, H.C. DeMotte died from difficulties relating to a heart ailment. He was survived by his wife and by his daughter, Clara DeMotte Munce.

Scope Note

This collection includes a selection of materials presumably collected by H.C. DeMotte such as newspaper articles, music and literary programs, university programs, Methodist conventions, and more. DeMotte wrote several of the newspaper articles, including some publicizing the university.

Folder Inventory

General biographical (Folder 1)

Items in this folder were added to the collection in 2012.

Folder 1: General biographical

- 1.1.1 "Dr. H.C. DeMotte Died Last Night," *Pantagraph*, 16 Dec 1904.

Early Self-Publications (Folders 2-4)

Folder 2: "The Acorn"

- 1.2.1 Self-published binding of handwritten essays and notices edited by Marlin McIntire, undated, 36 pp.

Folder 3: "The Young American"

- 1.3.1 Self-published binding of handwritten essays, Vol. 2, No. 2, 22 December 1857, *Metamora*. Edited by Mssrs. Carpenter and DeMotte, 11pp.

Folder 4: "The Mirror"

- 1.4.1 Self-published binding of handwritten essays, etc., Vol.1, No. 2, N.A. Johnson and H.C. DeMotte, editors and proprietors, undated, 28 pp.

College & University Related (Folders 5-9)

Folder 5: Illinois Wesleyan University Event Programs

- 1.5.1 Commencement Week, June 1870.
1.5.2 Commencement, 1870.
1.5.3 Class Day, 26 May 1871, 2 copies.
1.5.4 Commencement Week, June 1871, 3 copies
1.5.5 Commencement, 1871, 5 copies.
1.5.6 Constitution of the Belles Lettres Society, 1869 (organized 1859).
1.5.7 Belles-Lettres Society Exhibition, 23 March 1869.
1.5.8 10th Annual Exhibition of Belles-Lettres Society, 22 March 1870.
1.5.9 Munsellian Literary Society Exhibition, 16 June 1871.
1.5.10 Menu for Banquet and Reunion of the Wesleyan Alumni, 1873. Phoenix Hotel.
1.5.11 "Our Asiatic Visitors," by Louie C. Yocum, Oratorical Contest, 26 May 1882. Text of oratory.
1.5.12 Methodist Excursion tickets for 21 June 1883 and Steamboat Ride Tickets. Each stamped "Rec'd Payment Jun 21 1883 John Reed Treas. Ill. W.U."

Folder 6: Newspaper Articles regarding Illinois Wesleyan University

Note: H.C. DeMotte appears to have written each of these Central

Christian Advocate articles.

- 1.6.1 "Bloomington Correspondence," *Central Christian Advocate*, 1 Jan 1868.
- 1.6.2 "Illinois Wesleyan University," *Central Christian Advocate*, 20 Nov 1867.
- 1.6.3 "Bloomington Correspondence," *Central Christian Advocate*, 3 Feb 1869.
- 1.6.4 "Illinois Wesleyan University," *Central Christian Advocate*, 12 June 1867.
- 1.6.5 "Commencement Exercises of the Illinois Wesleyan University" and "Communicated," newspaper unknown, 1868.
- 1.6.6 "Illinois Wesleyan University," *Central Christian Advocate*, 7 Jul 1869.
- 1.6.7 "Commencement at Illinois Wesleyan University," newspaper unknown, 1870.
- 1.6.8 "Wesleyan University: Commencement Exercises," newspaper unknown, 1870.
- 1.6.9 "The Illinois Wesleyan University Admits the Ladies," unknown newspaper, 1870.
- 1.6.10 "The Wesleyan University: Laying the Corner Stone," *Daily Pantagraph*, Sep 1870.
- 1.6.11 "Illinois Wesleyan University: Laying the Corner Stone," *Central Christian Advocate*, 1870.
- 1.6.12 "Illinois Wesleyan University," *Central Christian Advocate*, 25 Jan 1871.
- 1.6.13 "The Illinois Wesleyan University," *Central Christian Advocate*, 9 Aug 1871.
- 1.6.14 "Second Lecture in Our Home Course," *Washington Herald*, 11 Dec 1873. Concerns upcoming lecture by DeMotte on "Twelve days with the Broncos."
- 1.6.15 "Vote of Thanks," unknown newspaper, undated. Concerns thanks to DeMotte, et al, for work on exhibition of Belles-Lettres Society.
- 1.6.16 "Anniversary of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the Wesleyan University," unknown newspaper, Feb 1875. Incomplete.
- 1.6.17 "The Alumni Journal," brief on journal of orations, essays, and poetry issued by BS Potter & HC DeMotte, unknown newspaper, undated.
- 1.6.18 "More About 'That Spouting Match: The Other Side Heard from – The Wesleyan Answer 'Delegate's Charges,'" *Daily Leader*, "Sat, Nov 28," with no year identified, 2 pp.
- 1.6.19 "Alumni Poem," *Daily Leader*, 22 Jun 1877, 2pp. As read at recent Alumni Reunion.
- 1.6.20 "What to Study," *Central Christian Advocate*, 12 Dec 1877.

Folder 7: Indiana Asbury University Event Programs

- 1.7.1 Thirty-First Commencement week schedule, 1870.
- 1.7.2 Class-Day Exercises for Class of '70, 29 June 1870.
- 1.7.3 Thirty-First Commencement, 30 June 1870.
- 1.7.4 Thirty-Second Commencement, 22 Jun 1871.
- 1.7.5 Phi Gamma Delta, Lamda Chapter, Thirteenth Anniversary, 24 June 1870, 2 copies.
- 1.7.6 Philological Literary Society: Thirtieth Anniversary on 27 June 1870;

- 1.7.7 Sixth Quinquennial and Graduating Exercises, each on 28 Jun 1870.
Platonean Literary Society: Thirty First Anniversary on 25 June 1870;
Sixth Quinquennial and Graduating Exercises, each on 27 Jun 1870.
- 1.7.8 Phi Gamma Delta Exhibition, Friday April 21st. (1871??), 4 copies.
- 1.7.9 Syllabus for "The New Pantheon," A Poem by John Clark Ridpath,
undated.

Folder 8: Oberlin College

- 1.8.1 "Laws and Regulations of Oberlin College," 16 pp. booklet, 1867.
- 1.8.2 "Rules for Teachers, Preparatory Department, O.C.," undated
- 1.8.3 Two types of pre-printed ready-to-complete excuse slips from 1860s &
70s.
- 1.8.4 Printed instruction schedule ready-to-complete for Preparatory
Department, 1860s.
- 1.8.5 Two types of payment receipts for room rentals, 1860s & 70s.

Folder 9: Other Colleges and Associations

- 1.9.1 Indiana Female College promotional brochure announcing newly
purchased institution, facilities, tuition, etc., 10 Jul 1865. Its president is
W.H. DeMotte.
- 1.9.2 Card for Clonian Society anniversary at College of the City of New York
Academy of Music, 22 May 1868.
- 1.9.3 First Annual Announcement of the "Illinois State College Association,"
1866/67. Also includes card for Reunion at Ashley House, 9 Jul 1868.
- 1.9.4 Constitution of the Central College Association plus list of 1869/70
officers and promised papers.
- 1.9.5 Illinois State Normal University, Twelfth Commencement, 29 June 1871,
2 copies.

Other Interests and Involvements (Folders 10-16)

Folder 10: Musical Programs

- 1.10.1 North-Western Normal Academy of Music Circular for 1865,
Bloomington. Lists faculty, offerings, etc.
- 1.10.2 "Strakosch Concert," Durley Hall, 17 Feb 1873.
- 1.10.3 Adelaide Phillipps Concert Company, undated.
- 1.10.4 Bloomington Musical Union Second Concert, Third Season at the
Academy of Music, 20 March 1871, 3 copies.
- 1.10.5 Bloomington Musical Union First Concert, Fourth Season at Free
Congregational Church, 7 Dec 1871.
- 1.10.6 Bloomington Musical Union Concert, 8 Dec 1871, at University Hall.
- 1.10.7 Berger Family Swiss Bell Ringers, undated.
- 1.10.8 Boston Philharmonic Club at Durley Hall, 5 Apr 1876.
- 1.10.9 Mendelssohn Quintette Club Concert, undated.
- 1.10.10 Theodore Thomas' Concerts Fourth season, 3 Mar 1873 at "Darley Hall."

- 1.10.11 "A Jolly Time at the Musical Union-Presentation to the Director and Pianist," unknown newspaper, undated.

Folder 11: Decoration Day 1870

- 1.11.1 "Dedication Day Programme at the Cemetery," undated. Includes songs by the Soldier's Orphans.
- 1.11.2 "Decoration Day," *Pantagraph*, 1870.
- 1.11.3 "A Prophet at Home," *Daily Leader*, May 31, no year. Letter to the editor praising DeMotte's Decoration Day address and lobbying for him to become university president.
- 1.11.4 "What is Life!" poem, unknown newspaper, undated.

Folder 12: Methodist/Methodist Episcopal Church

- 1.12.1 "Wes. Methodist Sunday School, St. James St. Montreal, Lessons for July, August, and September, 1864."
- 1.12.3 "Centenary of American Methodism," addressed to Illinois Methodist Episcopal members regarding upcoming conference, 7 Nov 1865.
- 1.12.4 "Singing as a Form of Worship," *Central Christian Advocate*, 1867.
- 1.12.5 "Choirs," *Central Christian Advocate*, 27 May 1867.
- 1.12.6 "Programme of the Illinois State Methodist Convention to be held at Bloomington," Nov 15-17, 1870. 2 different printings.
- 1.12.7 Pledge card to commit to entertain delegate during Illinois Methodist State Convention in Bloomington, Nov 15-17, 1870.
- 1.12.8 "Sunday School Convention at Weston, Illinois," Nov 29/30, no year. Includes a couple sessions led by "H.C. DeMott."

Folder 13: More DeMotte Newspaper Articles

Each written by DeMotte.

- 1.13.1 "Bloomington Correspondence: The Great Storm," *Central Christian Advocate*, 16 Jan 1871.
- 1.13.2 "The Power of Music," *Central Christian Advocate*, 11 Dec 1878.
- 1.13.3 "Thought Crystals," *Central Christian Advocate*, 8 Sep 1880.
- 1.13.4 "Thought Crystals," *Central Christian Advocate*, 22 Sep 1880.
- 1.13.5 "Thought Crystals," *Central Christian Advocate*, 29 Sep 1880, 2 pp.

Folder 14: Miscellaneous

- 1.14.1 Civil War account form for C.S.Army, with handwritten note "Captured Property Waterford, Miss." Form was not completed.
- 1.14.2 "The Camp Illuminator," Vol. 1, No. 10, 14 Mar 1865, Bridgeport. Torn.
- 1.14.3 Illinois Natural History Society Constitution, list of officers and trustees, 1864/65.
- 1.14.4 "Disowned by My Mother," sheet music for J.W. Dadmum song, 1866.
- 1.14.5 Complimentary ticket from I.B. & W Railroad Co (Indianapolis, Bloomington and Western) for Excursion from Bloomington to Pekin and return, 9 Dec 1869.

- 1.14.6 *The Trade Circular and Literary Bulletin*, March 1870, 8 pp. Includes Proceedings of the Convention of the Publishers' Board of Trade.
- 1.14.7 McLean County Coal Company shaft particulars, 1870-71.
- 1.14.8 Advertisement for "H.C. DeMott" lecture on "12 Days with the Broncos or Experiences among the Mormons," 28 Nov 1873.
- 1.14.9 Correspondence to Prof. DeMotte, in which several students request him to publish his recent lecture in the *Alumni Journal*, 7 Dec 1874.
- 1.14.10 Y.W.C.A. entertainment program at Amaturian Hall, 25 May 1897.
- 1.14.11 Prohibition Ticket list of candidates, undated.
- 1.14.12 Ticket and schedule for group visit to Pekin, undated.

Folder 15: General Interest Newspaper Articles

- 1.15.1 "Governor Yate's Temperance Speech," *Pantagraph*, possibly 1867, 2pp.
- 1.15.2 "Address of Welcome by Mrs. Mary A. Livermore," on prohibition laws, undated.
- 1.15.3 "Fourth of July in the Illinois Penitentiary –a Convict's Account, *Daily Leader*, 15 Jul 1875.
- 1.15.4 "Class Social," unknown newspaper, undated.
- 1.15.5 "A Matter of Interest: Several Solutions to a Knotty Problem in Actual Business," unknown newspaper, undated.
- 1.15.6 "Program out for Woman's State Federation Session," unknown newspaper, undated. Concerning thirteenth annual meeting of Illinois Federal of Women's Clubs to be held in Bloomington.
- 1.15.7 Marriage of Rev. A.H. Davies to Miss Bell Pugh, unknown publication, undated.
- 1.15.8 "Caned," unknown newspaper, undated. Concerning celebration with David Kern.

Folder 16: Miscellaneous Newspaper Clippings

- 1.16.1 Miscellaneous.

Scrapbook Pages (Folders 17-18)

Folder 17: Scrapbook Pages #1

- 1.17.1 Page Set #1
 - Jefferson City (MO) High School promotional brochure, 1863.
 - Shurtleff College of Upper Alton, IL, promotional brochure, 1 Jul 1858.
 - Bloomington Female College Exhibition at Royce Hall, program, 26 Jan 1866.
 - Washington District Conference and Sunday School Convention at Pekin, program, 24 May 1869. DeMotte to deliver opening address.
 - University of Michigan 25th Annual Commencement programme, Jun 1869.
 - Western College Association Annual Meeting at Evanston, IL, program, 24-27 Aug 1869.

North-Western Normal Academy of Music Closing Rehearsal program, 9 Oct 1866.

Second Anniversary of the Saybrook Academy, Cheney's Grove, IL, program, 28 Jun 1867.

Illinois State Normal University Ninth Commencement, program, 25 Jun 1868.

Illinois State Teachers' Institute at Normal, IL, announcement, for 5 Aug 1867.

Second Annual Meeting of the Illinois State College Association at Bloomington, program, 7-9 Jul 1868.

Illinois State Normal University Fourth Commencement, program 26 Jun 1863.

1.17.2

Page Set #2

Circular of the Northwestern Normal Academy of Music, Bloomington, for term starting 28 Aug 1867.

Order of Exercises for Crosby's Opera House, 17 May 1868.

Laying the Corner Stone of the New Court House for McLean County ,IL, with Masonic Ceremonies, program, 4 Jul 1868.

Anniversary Exercises of the Illinois Female College, commencement week program, 13-17 June 1869. With Lecture by President De Motte.

Seventh Anniversary of Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, program, 25-29 Oct 1863.

Sixth Anniversary of Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, program, 1862.

Tenth Annual Meeting of the Illinois State Teachers' Association, Springfield, program, 29-31 Dec 1863.

Illinois State Normal University First Commencement, Bloomington, 29 Jun 1860.

Second Annual Exhibition of the Metamora High School, program, 20-21 Feb 1861.

McLean County Sunday School Convention at Second Presbyterian Church, Bloomington, program, 4-5 Aug 1868.

"Annual Address of the Carrier Boy to the Citizens of Bloomington: A Happy New Year," 1869.

Illinois State Normal University Reception for graduating class, 24 Jun 1864.

1.17.3

Page Set #3

Scientific Expedition to the Rocky Mountains: Preliminary Report of Prof. J.W. Powell to the Illinois State Board of Education, 18 Dec 1867, 4pp.

Eleventh Annual Meeting of the Illinois State Sabbath-School Convention at Bloomington, program, 8-10 Jun 1869.

Concert Miss Ellen J.C. Hartt's Social Home Concert at Phoenix Hall, program, 19 Oct 1861.

North-Western and Iowa Normal Academies of Music, Bloomington IL and Davenport, IA, Circular for 1868.

North-Western Normal Academy of Music Closing Rehearsal, program, 9

Oct 1866.

Folder 18: Scrapbook Pages #2

- 1.18.1 Page Set #1
“National Thanksgiving Hymn,” news clipping, undated.
“Anniversary Hymns,” Metamora 4 July 1857, news clipping.
Messer’s Concert at Phoenix Hall, program, 5 Jun 1863. Mentions solo by
“Mr. DeMott.”
Third Anniversary joint meeting of Philadelphian and Wrightonian
Societies, program, 20 Dec 1860.
Handbill for Illinois Wesleyan University commencement week, 13 Jun ??
- 1.18.2 Page Set #2
Graduating Exercises of Bloomington Female College, 1864.
Bloomington Musical Union Concert ticket.
Republican Ticket, 1860 election.
Fourth Annual Commencement Illinois Wesleyan University, program, 30
Jun 1864.
Commencement Illinois College, program, 19 Jun 1862.
Illinois Wesleyan University Graduates’ Reception, 28 Jun 1866.
An Essay: “Tribute to the Memory of the Gettysburg Soldiery,” news
clipping, printing of speech at IWU 27 Nov 1863.
Obituaries and resolutions for deceased Geo. Leavitt, E.U. Durham, and
Geo. Croxton, undated.
“An Appeal for Air to the Sexton of the Big Meeting House,” news
clipping, undated.
Clipping for Marriage of Mr. C.A. Phelps to Julia M. Wright.
Concert advertisement clipping for a benefit for Mrs. Hillis at Phoenix
Hall, 18 Nov 1861. Mr. DeMotte listed as singer.
A Surprise Party gift presentation to Mrs. DeMotte from Belle-Lettres
Society students of DeMotte, undated clipping.
Bishop-Sampson nuptials, undated clipping.
Smallpox remedy, undated clipping.
- 1.18.3 Page Set #3
Union Ticket, 1862 election.
Union Ticket, 1861 election.
Union Ticket, 1863 election.
“To Whom It May Concern,” testimonials for local musician Miss Ellen
J.C. Hartt, 15 Jan 1863. Includes H.C. DeMotte.
Ticket for Annual Re-Union at Illinois Wesleyan University, 29 Jun 1863.
Civil War Officer’s Pass for Camp Butler, July 62, for Lt. DeMott.
Handbill for Sunday School Exhibition of the Methodist Church at
Phoenix Hall, 19 Jan 18??
Union Ticket, 1864 election.
L.H.Kerrick-Sallie Funk nuptials, clipping, undated.
Letter to editor responding to query on having IWU do summer institutes

- for teachers, 17 Aug 1867??
 Concert Miss Ellen J.C. Hartt's Social Home Concert at Phoenix Hall,
 program, 19 Oct 1861.
 Annual Commencement of the Illinois Wesleyan University, program, 2
 Jul 1863.
- 1.18.4 Page Set #4
 Circular Illinois Wesleyan University promotional brochure for 1864.
 Graduating Exercises Bloomington Female College, program, 1865.
- 1.18.5 Belles Lettres Society Program of Exhibition at Phoenix Hall, 15 Mar
 1866.
 "The Commencement Exercises," news clipping on Illinois Wesleyan
 University's 1867 commencement.
 "The Eclipse of 1806," news clipping, undated.
- 1.18.6 First Annual Announcement of the Illinois State College Association.
 Includes constitution and upcoming discussions at Springfield, 9 Jul 1867.

Deaths (Folders 19-20)

Folder 19: Funeral Notices

Formal printed notices, not newspaper listings.

For John Steel April 1867; George Croxton(2) Feb 1865; Rev. J.V.W.
 Baumann (undated); and John Newton Hughes March 1874.

Folder 20: Newspaper Obituaries and Resolutions of Respect

For Henry N. Howell Feb 1871; Stumper Quincy Davison Aug 1873;
 George W. Metz undated; Jacob Kern undated; Dr. Wm E. Banta (2) Dec
 1878; Isaac L. Kenyon (undated); Mrs. A..S. Wilson (undated); Miss
 Maggie Anderson Nov 1904; Miss Margaret Leeper (undated); Wm. H.
 McCreery (undated); Col. Harry G. Reeves June 1902?; James Andrew
 DeMott Feb 1868; Melville Phoenix (undated).

Accounts (Folder 21)

Folder 21: Local Merchant Accounts

Nine statements of accounts from various local merchants, mostly
 laundries, in 1896. Some appear to be for multiple persons and may be
 related to Illinois Wesleyan University needs.
 Plus a tract on Horsford's Acid Phosphate.