

McLean County Museum of History

James Hart Collection

Processed
January 2013

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 box
COLLECTION DATES:	1901-1985
PROVENANCE:	Gift
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:	See also <i>Shamrocks and Roses</i> by James Hart (Chicago: J. S. Hyland & Co., 1910); and <i>Home Town In the Corn Belt: A Source History of Bloomington, Illinois 1900-1950, Volume II</i> , compiled by Louise Kessler (Bloomington, 1950). Both available in the Museum Library.

Brief History

Born in Lawndale, Illinois, in 1882, James “Jimmie” Michael Hart was initially reared in Atlanta, Illinois. His Irish-born father worked for the Chicago and Alton Railroad. He graduated from Bloomington High School and attended Bede College at Peru, IL, for three years. He passed the state bar during his career.

Hart proofread, reported and wrote editorials for the Bloomington *Bulletin* from 1912 to 1927, when the newspaper was purchased by the *Pantagraph*. He became the *Paragraph's* night telegraph and state editor, retiring from full time employment in 1947. He proofread on a part time basis for a number of years after that.

Since early youth he contributed verse to the *Pantagraph* and other Illinois newspapers. A collection of his early poems was published as *Shamrocks and Roses*. He also penned a series of narrative poems dealing with Lincoln's activities in Central Illinois towns.

Hart never married. His hobbies included collecting postage stamps and making historical scrapbooks. He was a member of Holy Trinity Church.

Scope

The collection contains newspaper articles about Hart, poems (mostly published in newspapers), and two scrapbooks of his poems.

Inventory

Folder 1: Biographical Information

- 1.1 Biographical Sketch, 1 p., no author, no date.
- 1.2 Articles photocopied from scrapbook (source unknown): "High Honor For Hart" and "Pupils Win Prizes," newspaper(s) and date(s) unknown.
- 1.3 "Mr. Bryan's Note To James Hart," newspaper and date unknown.
- 1.4 "An Atlanta Poet," *Minier News*, June 1, 1906.
- 1.5 "Tribute To Young Poet," *Pantagraph*, October 28, 1907.
- 1.6 "James Hart, Newsman, Poet, Dies," *Pantagraph*, July 16, 1967.
- 1.7 "'Jimmie' Hart Leaves \$1,000," *Pantagraph?* July 1967.
- 1.8 Cemetery record, from *Illinois McLean County Cemeteries*, Vol. 14-1, *Bloomington Township*, St. Mary's Cemetery, p. 100.
- 1.9 "To James Hart" (poem by E. H. Neal, dated February 17, 1907 from New York), newspaper unknown.
- 1.10 "75 years ago" ("How Time Flies" from *Pantagraph*), October 30, 1985.
- 1.11 "Dearie, Do You Remember?" *Pantagraph*, undated article on Hart's collection of campaign buttons.

Folder 2: Poetry General

- 2.1 "St. Patrick's Bells," *Bulletin*, July 16, 1901, p. 3.
- 2.2 "To Judge Benjamin," *Bulletin*, June 15, 1913.
- 2.3 "Germany," *Bulletin*, October 12, 1913, p. 11.
- 2.4 "Adlai E. Stevenson, The Venerable Politician," *Bulletin*, June 21, 1914, p. 8.
- 2.5 "De Valera," *Bulletin*, October 22, 1919, p. 10.
- 2.6 "The Irish Free State," *Sunday Bulletin*, January 15, 1922.

- 2.7 "Our Hall of Fame," August 26, 1930.
- 2.8 "Eddie Pierson—Reporter," *The Family Circle* (*Pantagraph* employee newsletter), March 1932, p.1.
- 2.9 "Lincoln's Last Journey," *Minier News*, September 30, 1938.
- 2.10 "Judge David Davis," *Stanford Star*, June 8, 1940 (original clipping and photocopy).
- 2.11 "Lincoln and Fell," February 12, 1960, p. 10.
- 2.12 "Lincoln in Lexington," *Pantagraph?* February 12, 1963.
- 2.13 "James Hart Adds Gettysburg Verse to Series on Lincoln," November 17, 1963.
- 2.14 "Lincoln in Lexington" (submitted to the Lexington? *Banner* newspaper by Morris W. Jones, appeared in paper May 16, 1979, p. 9).
- 2.15 "Lincoln in Pontiac," *Pantagraph?* date unknown.
- 2.16 "Lincoln Walked Out Streets," *Pantagraph?* date unknown (February 11, 1959?).
- 2.17 "The Veterans," newspaper and date unknown.
- 2.18 "Governor Fifer," newspaper and date unknown.
- 2.19 "America(n) (Flag?)" newspaper and date unknown.
- 2.20 "The Passing of the C&A," 2 pgs., typed, date unknown.
- 2.21 "When Father Sammon Played Ball," newspaper and date unknown.
- 2.22 "The Fifth Wall," newspaper and date unknown.

Folder 3: Poetry World War I

The following poems were clipped and pasted in a World War I scrapbook (M-5), by an unknown individual. It's likely all the poems were originally published in *The Bulletin*. Only one of the poems ("Rheims") is dated.

- 3.1 "To Those Who Mourn" and "Our Unknown Soldier."
- 3.2 "Chateau Thierry" and "Rheims" (the latter is *Bulletin*, August 19, 1919).
- 3.3 "Our Chief" and "The Place of the Americans"
- 3.4 "In Italy" and "Joffre In Springfield."
- 3.5 Memorial Day—1918" and "Wounded In Action" (Private Claude Miller, U.S. Marines"

Folder 4: Correspondence

- 4.1 James Hart to Ruth and Shirley (surname unknown), September 23, 1956.
- 4.2 James Hart to Ruth and Shirley (surname unknown), September 23, 1957.

Loose Item

- 5.1 Scrapbook, 5 x 7 ½ inches, brown cloth cover. Handwritten inscription on first page: "Pantagraph Poems / James Hart Pantagrapher, 1926-1954."

Scrapbook contains Hart poems from local newspapers and other sources, from "Blooming Grove" (no date) to "For Adlai Stevenson," from *Family Circle* (*Pantagraph* employee newsletter dated December 1, 1966).

