

Historical Markers Collection

Processed by
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Collection Information
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Box Inventory

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box, 5 Folders
COLLECTION DATES:	1913 to 2019
PROVENANCE:	Unknown
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:	Unless otherwise specified with "pp," an object is only 1 sheet or not on paper.

Brief History

Historical markers such as plaques, cornerstones, and others have been used since at least the early-to-mid 1800s in Illinois. Among the many markers throughout central Illinois, many reference historical settlers—including John Hendrix and John Dawson who reportedly are the first white families to settle in what was then Keg Grove or Blooming Grove. Numerous other markers are included in this collection, including commemorative plaques and signs for churches, government organizations, and individuals throughout the area's recent history.

Scope Note

Folder 1 contains articles—mostly those from *Pantagraph*—which detail historical markers erected in central Illinois. Some of them discuss the dedication itself while others comment on certain historical inaccuracies related to them. Folder 2 contains pictures and some email correspondence on historical markers which were dedicated or erected before 1940, whereas Folder 3 contains the same materials except those on or after 1940. Folder 4 contains miscellaneous materials on paper, including photocopied manuscripts on historical markers and notes pointing toward additional resources outside the collection. Folder 5 holds alternate media which is not on paper, including compact discs with pictures of historical markers in the Bloomington-Normal area.

Folder 1: Newspaper Articles

- 1.1 "Lincoln Tablet is Placed in Position," *Pantagraph*, 15 April 1913, pp. 9.
- 1.2 "Bronze Tablet to Mark the Big Fire," *Pantagraph*, 17 August 1918, pp. 5.
- 1.3 "D.A.R. Women at Potawatomie Rock," *Pantagraph*, 16 June 1920, p. 3.
- 1.4 "Dedicate Marker Today," *Pantagraph* on John W Dawson and John Hendrix, the first settlers of Blooming Grove, 7 September 1922, pp. 7.
- 1.5 "Lincoln Circuit Marker at Carlock," *Pantagraph*, 18 July 1923, pp. 13.
- 1.6 "Historical Tablets Permanently Mark Interesting Sites," *The Daily Pantagraph*, 14 April 1929, pp. D1.
- 1.7 "Monument Is Dedicated at Cropsey," *Pantagraph* on a World War I monument, 14 October 1929, pp. 2.
- 1.8 "Boulder Marking Site of First U.B. Church in State Is Dedicated," *Pantagraph* on Old Money Creek Church north of Towanda, 11 September 1930, pp. 3 (3 pages).
- 1.9 "Boulder Marks Poet's Birthplace," *Pantagraph* on poet Richard Hovey, 10 April 1931, pp. 13.
- 1.10 "Site of M.E. Stone Ceremony Today," *The Daily Pantagraph* on the Gildersleeve and Melville tablet in Hudson, 20 August 1933, pp. 3. (says continues on page 14).
- 1.11 "Girl Scouts Blaze Trail," *The Pantagraph* on Jesse Fells and Lincoln courthouse plaque, 12 February 1941, pp. 9.
- 1.12 "Green to Dedicate Memorial," *Pantagraph* on Gridley Honor Roll of World War I and World War II veterans, 25 July 1945, pp. 5.
- 1.13 "Mothers Dedicate Memorial Fountain to County War Dead," *Pantagraph*, 20 October 1948.
- 1.14 "Little Known Marker," *The Daily Pantagraph* on a John and Jane Hendrix and John and Ann Dawson plaque, 29 October 1948, pp. 3.
- 1.15 "Floral Monument: Tulips To Bloom On Old Main Site," *Pantagraph* on Illinois State University's Old Main, 12 October 1958, pp. 3.
- 1.16 "City's Pioneer Paving Marked by Historians," *Pantagraph* with included photograph titled "Plaque Presented," 12 May 1968, pp. 2. NOTE: Bloomington is not the place of the nation's first paved brick street. (See Urban Legends Vertical File for more information).
- 1.17 "Old-Time: Double Event Coming For Historical Group," *Unknown*, on Samuel Stewart residence and first brick house marker near Randolph, 1970.
- 1.18 *Lexington Unit Journal / Chenoa Clipper Times* on Block House Fort marker near Lexington with included photograph, 2 August 1973.
- 1.19 *Pantagraph* on wording of the Franklin Park marker, 27 February 1989, pp. A3.
- 1.20 "Vision taking a natural course," *The Pantagraph* on the M.J. Rhymer family nature reserve marker, 20 October 2010.
- 1.21 "Junior Grant preserving local history" by Jan Strawsner, *The Heyworth Buzz* on Funk's Grove in Shirley, 23 May 2012, pp. 1 and 10.

- 1.22 “First brick street myth endures in Bloomington,” *The Pantagraph* on the erroneous Center Street Site marker near Courthouse Square, 30 September 2012, pp. A11.
- 1.23 “Monument for massacred black GI’s unveiled at Miller Park,” *Ridgeview Review* on the WWII Battle of the Bulge massacre of 11 surrendered African-Americans of 333rd Field Artillery Battalion on December 1944, 23 June 2016, pp. 3.
- 1.24 “How Time Flies,” *Pantagraph* of Flanigon marker in Bellflower township in 1939, email explaining its significance and photograph included, 20 January 2013, 3 pp.

Folder 2: Erected Pre-1940

- 2.1 Digital Scans of John Orendorff millstone marker and Hendrix / Dawson “First Settlers of Blooming Grove” marker, Blooming Grove Cemetery / Orendorff Cemetery, erected 1922, 26 September 2016.
- 2.2 Digital scan of 3rd McLean County Courthouse marker on Illinois State University Quad, transcription included, 2 pp.
- 2.3 Digital scan of the 1875 Bloomington Water Works stone marker taken by museum volunteer Mike Lester, May 2012.
- 2.4 Two digital scans of Lieutenant S Noble Night 1913 Land Donation marker in Bloomington, one in grayscale with included newspaper caption, erected February 1913, 2013, 2 pp.
- 2.5 Digital scans of the 1900 Great Fire origin plaque in Bloomington, email included noting the plaque’s location, erected 1918, 2016, 3 pp.
- 2.6 Photograph of 1917-1919 McLean County Fairview Sanitarium Supervisors plaque in Normal, email including noting its location and the name Florence Fifer Bohrer, erected 1919, 3 January 2017, 2 pp.
- 2.7 Photograph of First United Brethren Church marker stone in Towanda, transcription and notes included on the founding reverend and church history from “History of McLean County,” erected 1830, July 2007, 2 pp.
- 2.8 Photo prints of Fort Bartholomew / Block House Fort plaques in Money Creek Township, email included from Angelo Capparella detailing its significance, erected 1933, 29 July 2017, 8 pp.
- 2.9 Photo prints of the Silas Hubbard gate and Elbert Hubbard / Melville Stone bench plaques, note included indicating its relation to the old pump house entrance and public park at Lake Bloomington, erected 1931, 6 August 2017, 6 pp.
- 2.10 Photo prints of Mount Pisgah Baptist Church plaque and cornerstone, note describing its location and 1917 shift into Full Gospel Church of Praise, 1 October 2017, 5 pp.
- 2.11 Photo prints of Oak Grove Cemetery plaque and Alexander Carleton King marker, information printed on back, 13 December 2017, 3 pp.
- 2.12 Photo print of Etnataek battle site marker, email included detailing battle information and possible location, 17 January 2018, 3 pp.

- 2.13 Photo prints of Old Harbord Place missing plaque near Crestwicke Country Club in Bloomington, note included mentioning the missing plaque and dedication and plaque location, erected 1937, 14 May 2018, 5 pp.
- 2.14 Flanigon marker in Bellflower Township, note included stating the Flanigons donated land to the local school, erected 1938, 14 July 2018, 3 pp.
- 2.15 Photo prints of 1928 cornerstones at pergola and bench at Saybrook Community Park, printed paper detailing the feature, erected 1928, 14 July 2018, 6 pp.
- 2.16 Photo prints of Isaac Funk marker at Interstate 55 Isaac Funk Rest Area in McLean, attached email correspondence detailing Funk's I-house residence information and locations, erected 1915, 2019, 3 pp.
- 2.17 Photo prints of Buck Mann Park Memorial Fountain, Bloomington, taken by museum librarian, Bill Kemp, May 6, 2019, 4 pp.

Folder 3: Erected Post-1940

- 3.1 Digital Scan of First Christian Church plaque in Bloomington, commemorated as "Bloomington's oldest continuing congregation," erected 1988, September 2011.
- 3.2 Digital scan of Charles Lindbergh marker, commemorated for his parachuting over Covell, erected 25 September 1977.
- 3.3 Digital scan of Trotter Fountain marker in Withers Park in Bloomington, erected 1 June 2013.
- 3.4 Digital scan of Bentown / Benjaminville plaque, email included about the September 2015 replacement boulder and note on location, erected 1985, November 2015, 4 pp.
- 3.5 Photo prints of Benjaminville Friends Meeting House marker, note included, erected 1994, 28 January 2018, 4 pp.
- 3.6 Photo prints of John Patton Cabin marker and cabin in Lexington, email included, erected 1985, 10 February 2018, 4 pp.
- 3.7 Photo prints of Dag Hammarskjold 1961 memorial marker in Ewing Park I in Bloomington, 28 May 2018, 4 pp
- 3.8 Photo print of Simon Malone house marker in Normal, printed Facebook post including noting it as the first house of an African American in Normal and location, 23 February 2019, pp. 2.
- 3.9 Photo prints of "The Grand Village of Kickapoo" 1999 park marker and plaques in Arrowsmith Township, erected 1999, 24 November 2018, 3 pp.
- 3.10 Photo print of "The Grand Village of Kickapoo" 1999 park marker in Arrowsmith Township, erected 1999, January 13, 2019.
- 3.11 Photo prints of American Legion Memorial at Park Hill Cemetery in Bloomington, 1 October 2017, 6 pp.
- 3.12 Photo prints of "1864 Site of 1947 Hall School" marker in Bellflower Township, 26 November 2107, 2 pp.
- 3.13 Photo prints of "1867 Site of 1946 White Star School" marker in West Township, 26 November 2017, 2 pp.

- 3.14 Photo print of 1947 Illinois Wesleyan University plaque in the Memorial Center as a dedication to students killed in World War II, November 2018.
- 3.15 Photo prints of “The Old Settlers’ Picnic” Marker at the north east corner of Moraine View State Recreation Area, April 7, 2019.
- 3.16 Photo prints of 14 views of the Historical marker and standpipe at Fell Park, taken by Museum Librarian Bill Kemp, April 17, 2019.
- 3.17 Photo prints of 3 views of the Historical marker for Ritter School at the southeast corner of 1500 N and 3300 East, Martin Township, taken by Museum Librarian Bill Kemp, May 26, 2019.
- 3.18 Photo prints of 3 views of the Row marker at North east corner of 1500 North and 3300 East, Martin Township, taken by Museum Librarian Bill Kemp, May 26, 2019.
- 3.19 Photo prints of Heide Marker, Anchor Township, taken by Museum Librarian Bill Kemp, July 25, 2019.

Folder 4: Miscellany

- 4.1 “McLean County Historical Places Marked By Monuments and Plaques and Other Historical Places of Interest” by Morris W Jones, from *Stories of the Past & Poetry*, 1984, pp. 50-51. NOTE: photocopy of book cover included.
- 4.2 List of Illinois State Historical Society markers located in McLean County, September 2011.
- 4.3 Email between Bill Kemp of McLean County Museum of History to Rick Wagers regarding the location of the Stumptown Marker in Dawson Township, 8 May 2018.
- 4.4 Photocopy of local markers listed in *Illinois State History of the Daughters of the American Revolution*, Vol. II, 1969, pp. 92-93. NOTE: included photocopy of book cover page.
- 4.5 Photocopy of invitation to Evergreen Cemetery Monument dedication in Lawndale Township in Colfax, 25 June 2005.
- 4.6 Email from Mike Matejka, museum board member, to Brian Southey, City of Bloomington, on the Chicago & Alton Shops whistle at Miller Park, included second email from Greg Koos, museum executive, 20 December 2012, 2 pp.
- 4.7 Email from Bonnie Fern to Torii Moré, digital humanities museum curator, regarding a small column relic at 1312 West Olive Street in Bloomington, 13 January 2014.
- 4.8 Notes on John Wesley Powell Monument at the Illinois Wesleyan quadrangle, unknown author and date, typed.
- 4.9 Notes on additional resources for historical markers outside the Historical Markers collection, unknown author and date, typed.
- 4.10 List of Historical Markers recorded in Home Town in the Corn Belt, Vol. V, pp. 320 – 331.

Folder 5: Alternate Media

- 5.1 CD containing photographs of Bloomington / Normal markers, compiled by Museum Library volunteer Mike Lester, 2012 (2 copies).