

McLean County Museum of History

McEwen Brothers Blacksmith Shop Collection

Processed by
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1912 - 1949
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:	1 large ledger daily sales, see day book collection, 1 tin type ID unknown

Brief History

According to an article in *The Pantagraph* of July 17, 1942, John and William McEwen established their blacksmith shop in Chenoa on February 29, 1896. It operated on the same corner for nearly 47 years. Both had learned the blacksmith trade in Scotland where they were born in the mid-1860s. John came to Chenoa in 1894, and William, a year before. The unique service in the first shop was that they made their own horseshoes which their customers preferred. Through the years they kept up with the technology of the day - from old time bellows to the latest in electric blowers and implements.

William died in 1944; his wife preceded him in death; and they had no children. John died in 1949; his wife preceded him in death; and they had three children.

Scope

This collection consists of five newspaper articles about the Scottish-born McEwen brothers the blacksmith shop's inception and success, plus the sudden and untimely death of John's son. Included are obits for William's wife, William, and John. The eight business ledgers cover 1896 through 1899, then 1902 and 1905.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1 Newspaper Articles, *Pantagraph*, unless noted

- 1.1.1 "Two Popular Chenoa Boys Killed By Train," John Edward McEwen, 15, struck by west bound passenger train at Farmers' Elevator crossing," *Chenoa-Clipper-Times*, August 29, 1912
- 1.1.2 "Mrs. William McEwen," obit, *Chenoa-Clipper-Times*, December 15, 1927.
- 1.1.3 "Chenoa's Scotch Blacksmiths Enjoy Jokes on Own Ancestry," w/photo, July 17, 1942.
- 1.1.4 "William McEwen," obit, July 8, 1944.
- 1.1.5 "John McEwen," obit, March 2, 1949.

Ledger Books from the Blacksmith Business

1896 entries for service performed, name, date, amount, and paid noted.

1896 to 1897 entries for service performed, name, date, amount, paid and lined through.

1897 entries for service performed, name, date, amount, paid and lined through.

1898 entries for service performed, name, date, amount, paid and lined through.

1899 entries for service performed, name, date, amount, paid and lined through.

1899 entries for service performed, name, date, amount, and paid noted.

1902 entries for service performed, name, date, amount, paid or acc. noted.

1905 entries for service performed, name, date, amount, paid or acc. noted.