

McLean County Museum of History

Richard Middleton & James Gill Collection

Processed by Torii Moré
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1862-1986
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:	Archived photographs under Middleton

Historical Sketch

The following was adapted from the obituary of James Gill, found in Folder 1.

James Gill was born in 1830 in Bantry, Cork County, Ireland. Gill came to America when he was 16, stayed in New York until 1854, and after spending some time in the Navy, came to Bloomington in 1856 or 1857. He joined Holy Trinity Church that same year.

When the Civil War started he enlisted in the Union Army 33rd Missouri Infantry, later transferred to the 11th Missouri Infantry. He served at Nashville, Red River, Yazoo, siege of Mobile and other memorable battles.

Gill returned to Bloomington in 1865 and got married to an 18-year-old Irish girl (he was over 35), Ann Garrity. They had two sons and a daughter, Julia Gill, who married Thomas L. Middleton (Richard Middleton's parents). Ann died in 1909, James died in 1916.

The following was adapted from the article "He banked on career change" in *The Pantagraph*, December 10, 1978, found in Folder 1

Richard Middleton was born in Bloomington to Thomas and Julia Middleton on December 20, 1912. His grandparents, Irish and English immigrants, came to Bloomington in the late 1800s, and all have been members of Holy Trinity Church.

In 1930 while in high school, Richard began working as a stock boy at National Tea grocery. He kept this job through his college years at Illinois State Normal University (ISNU) and eventually became a manager of a National Tea store in South Bend, Indiana. That store closed and he was back in Bloomington in 1935. He had always been interested in banks, and two of his brothers worked in banks. In May 1935 he received a call from National Tea offering him a manager position in Benton Harbor, Michigan, paying \$120 a month. The same day he received a call from Grover Helm, president of First National Bank, Bloomington, asking him to work there for \$60 a month. He jumped at the bank job.

Except for a stint in the Army during World War II, Richard stayed at the bank. During his army service, his wife Lucile worked at the bank. Richard worked at the bank for 44 years, and retired in 1978. In retirement Middleton was offered 19 jobs. He took a part time position as a consultant.

Richard and Lucile had three daughters: Ann, Mary and Martha.

Richard was active in the community with the old Community Chest (now United Way), Bloomington Unlimited, Jaycees, Credit Bureau, McLean County Health Board, and Home Sweet Home Mission. In 1966 he served on the board at Holy Trinity Church, which raised more than \$1 million to build Epiphany School, St. Clare, and the new Holy Trinity elementary school.

Scope Note

This collection contains newspaper clippings, genealogical research, annual reports, WWII forms, ID cards, correspondence (WWII and Civil War), a deed (1899), and photocopies of law articles. The collection spans from the years 1862-1986.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Biographical Information & News Clippings

- 1.1 December 10, 1978. "He banked on career change" in the *Pantagraph* (2 copies)
- 1.2 Obituary for Lucile Middleton (Richard's wife)
- 1.3 Obituary for Julie E. (Gill) Middleton
- 1.4 Will of James Gill
- 1.5 Obituary for James Gill (4 copies)
- 1.6 "Mr. James Gill Beloved by All" Article February 23, 1916

Folder 2: Genealogy and History

- 2.1 Hand-written note about the Chicago and Alton rail road
- 2.2 Hand-written note about James Gill
- 2.3 Hand-written note about Julia Gill (2)
- 2.4 Hand-written note about being drafted

- 2.5 Hand-written note about Julia Gill, Thomas Gill Middleton, J. Francis Middleton, and Richard A. Middleton
- 2.6 Typed history of Saturdays in downtown Bloomington in the late 20s and early 30s
- 2.7 Typed history of Bloomington-Normal fires of March 1932
- 2.8 Photocopy of handwritten essay on Bloomington in the 1910s-30s, 10 pp.
- 2.9 Typed essay on deliving the Pantagraph in the 1920s, 2pp
- 2.10 Notes, possibly about 1924 in Bloomington, 4 pp.
- 2.11 Typed essay on movie theatres in Bloomington fifty years ago, 2 pp.
- 2.12 Typed remembrances on 1932, 1p.
- 2.13 Typed remembrances on Dec 7, 1941, dated 7 Dec 1981, 1p.
- 2.14 Typed essay on the Illinois Terminal Railroad, 21 Feb 1982, 2pp.
- 2.15 Handwritten essay, "The City of Bloomington – a City in Transition," 13 May 1984, 2 pp.

Folder 3: National Tea Company

- 3.1 Explanation of order blank
- 3.2 Salary sheet for working Sunday January 17, 1932
- 3.3 Fee for working January 1, 1933
- 3.4 blank order form for National Tea Company

Folder 4: National Bank

- 4.1 Check made out to Williams & Burr, dated April 1871, for \$15,900
- 4.2 August 4, 1948. Letter to Dick from Grover Helm, President of National Bank. (*Regarding the state of business*)
- 4.3 1951 Statement of the National Bank of Bloomington
- 4.4 1967 Statement of the National Bank of Bloomington (5 copies)
- 4.5 1980 Statement of the National Bank of Bloomington
- 4.6 check written to Grover Helm from Richard Middleton for \$18 April 1955
- 4.7 blank National State Bank of Bloomington check
- 4.8 Illinois and Federal Estate, Gift, and Inheritance Tax brochure
- 4.9 hand written note
- 4.10 January 28, 1970 letter from Andrew J. Paine to Richard A. Middleton (*regarding thanks for Annual Report and compliments on his work*)
- 4.11 Comparative balance sheet for 1969 and 1968
- 4.12 The National Bank of Bloomington envelopes (2) and letterhead (5)

Folder 5: National Bank Annual Reports

- 5.1 1971
- 5.2 1973
- 5.3 1974 (2 copies)
- 5.4 1975
- 5.5 1976 (2 copies)
- 5.6 1977
- 5.7 1978
- 5.8 1980
- 5.9 1982

5.10 1983

Folder 6: WWII

- 6.1 Local Board Registration Card
- 6.2 Notice of Classification
- 6.3 Notice for physical Examination
- 6.4 Application for Family Allowances
- 6.5 Class "A" Pass (2)
- 6.6 Class "A" Pass giving Richard permission to visit the Post Exchange, Library, Service Club, and to leave the PRD area during daylight hours
- 6.7 Camp Beale Library Card
- 6.8 June 25, 1943. Special Orders from Armed Forces Induction Station
- 6.9 July 7, 1943. Recommendation letter from Oscar G. Hoose(?) Judge of McLean County Probate Court
- 6.10 May 10, 1944 Correspondence from Adjunct General's School regarding commendation
- 6.11 Camp Ellis News, August 1944. Photocopy of newspaper article titled "Pfc.'s Plan to Reduce Awol Commend"
- 6.12 Correspondence from the Headquarters of Army Service Forces Training Center commending Richard Middleton for his electricity-saving idea
- 6.13 July 1944 Special Orders from Army HQ
- 6.14 August 16, 1944. Correspondence from the Headquarters of Army Service Forces Training Center commending Richard Middleton for his plan to reduce AWOL Totals
- 6.15 Special Orders from Army April 11, 1945

Folder 7: Camp Beale, California

- 7.1 2 copies of army services orders
- 7.2 January 27, 1946. Letter to parents about weather, California, and updates
- 7.3 February 26, 1946 Envelope and letter to Miss Julianne Middleton from R.A. Middleton
- 7.4 February 24, 1946. Letter from Dick in Camp Beale to "Folks" regarding becoming a civilian again & updates.
- 7.5 March 6, 1946 letter to Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Middleton from Dick regarding San Francisco, clothing, and discharge in a month

Folder 8: WWII Letters

- 8.1 6 envelopes from Richard Middleton
- 8.2 December 9, 1945. From Dick to "Folks" (*Christmas, death of Elizabeth Barth*)
- 8.3 November 11, 1945. From Dick to "Folks" (*salmon jumping, panning for gold, weather, discharge*)
- 8.4 December 1, 1945. From Dick to Julie (*sent package, help with gift for his wife*)
- 8.5 October 21, 1945. From Dick to "Folks" (*trip to Los Angeles, calling family, visit with Florence*)
- 8.6 August 23, 1944. From Dick (*Saying goodbye to his Colonel*)
- 8.7 August 26, 1944. Laminated 13 page letter from Dick to "Folks" (*travels, train ride, sights, barracks*)

Folder 9: Robert Middleton Miscellaneous

- 9.1 4 train tickets from Bloomington to Chicago, 1 blank ticket.
- 9.2 Amtrak schedule 1978, 1980, 1980
- 9.3 GM & O between Chicago and St. Louis train schedule
- 9.4 Gulf, Mobile, and Ohio R.R. Northern Division employee timetable
- 9.5 7 business cards of Richard Middleton, from the National Bank and City Hall
- 9.6 Richard Middleton Drivers Licenses 1941, 1942, 1945
- 9.7 Richard Middleton Voter's ID
- 9.8 NY Central System employee ID card
- 9.9 Richard Middleton P. R. Mallory & Co., Inc. Irregular Employee Record
- 9.10 Richard Middleton Non-Commissioned Officers Club member card
- 9.11 Richard Middleton Holy Trinity School report card grade 8
- 9.12 Richard Middleton Trinity High School report card senior year
- 9.13 Boy Scout registration card 1926
- 9.14 Lake Tahoe postcard
- 9.15 Withholding Tax Statement for Julia Gill Middleton 1955
- 9.16 Texas CPA Booklet
- 9.17 June 2, 1931 newspaper clipping titled "Cup Award is made to Trinity Student
- 9.18 Clipping of an "Eye Flirtation" guide
- 9.19 Social Insurance Award for Tom L. Middleton
- 9.20 Richard Middleton Appreciation Day Award, 1962
- 9.21 Richard Middleton biographical information for role in play
- 9.22 Program- Community Players presents The Crucible by Arthur Miller
- 9.23 T.L. Middleton Groceries & Meats February 1924 calendar
- 9.24 State Farm Fire Insurance Renewal Certificate
- 9.25 National Service Life Insurance July 1943
- 9.26 Selective Service Board notice
- 9.27 I.C.G. R.R. CO. Map of rail road tracks in Bloomington
- 9.28 Photocopy of *Pantagraph* obituaries page March 9, 1951

Folder 10: Martha Middleton Articles

Articles appear in The National Law Journal (Items 1-5 and 40-43) and LawScope (Items 6-39)

- 10.1 "Chicago Courts Reel From Corruption Probe"
- 10.2 "The New Respectability of Breaking up
- 10.3 "Employers Face upsurge in Suits over Defamation
- 10.4 "'Settlement Weeks' Gain Favor around U.S."
- 10.5 "Securities Lawyers Study Dismissal of Boesky Suit"
- 10.6 "Bloom Is Off the Rose for Lawyer PCs"
- 10.7 "Christmas Deadline on Bankruptcy Judges' Role" "For Finance Lawyers, Bad Times are Good" and "Tax Law Changes Again; Too Fast, Too Often?"
- 10.8 "Hunt for Lost Children Aided by FBI Computer"
- 10.9 "'Neutral Summarizer' Used in Complex Case"
- 10.10 "Out of Mothballs: Why not use retired judges?"
- 10.11 "Tax Fairness: Ex-senator forms committee"
- 10.12 "Politics in Robes: Justices assailed and defended"
- 10.13 "Overload: Justices call for relief"
- 10.14 "Keep Status Quo: ABA backs bankruptcy set-up"
- 10.15 "Yardsticks Urged: Competence task force meets"
- 10.16 "Judge on the Run: Healthy concerns for Justice(s)"
- 10.17 "Tale Told by a Fly: Entomologist solves murders"

- 10.18 "The Tax Gap: Why don't people pay up?"
- 10.19 "Red Tape Cutters: Social workers carve out role"
- 10.20 "Bar judicial polls: Is it time for evaluation?"
- 10.21 "ABE suit contests ruling on refunds"
- 10.22 "Bars are looking to donations in the dues" and "Two issues settled in ABE tax dispute"
- 10.23 "IRS draws a line on bar journal ads"
- 10.24 "Two Judges go to court over rating surveys"
- 10.25 "Live by dues alone? Bar execs divided"
- 10.26 "ABA club bias action spurs resignations"
- 10.27 "Bars, foundations find ways to help each other"
- 10.28 "Dose of ethics added to CLE seminars"
- 10.29 "Attorney malpractice"
- 10.30 "Debate rumbles on: What is competence?"
- 10.31 "IBM discounts put bar in typewriter business"
- 10.32 "Chancellor to sniff like 'Philadelphia lawyer'"
- 10.33 "Bar mediation gains in Michigan" and "Bar responds again to attack on judges"
- 10.34 "Professions to fight for FTC exemption"
- 10.35 "D.C. bar fights LRS records subpoena"
- 10.36 "D.C. unified bar can judge judges: council"
- 10.37 "How bars are trying to polish public image"
- 10.38 "California considers school for legal aid"
- 10.39 "Philadelphians using 'LegalLine P.M.'"
- 10.40 "Dial-a-Porn Suffers Setback"
- 10.41 "Dioxin Suits Settled for \$19M" December 1, 1986
- 10.42 "Merger Talks Set Windy City Abuzz" December 1, 1986
- 10.43 "New Chicago Judge Jailed for Contempt"
- 10.44 Trust deed using parts of Lots 2 & 3 in Allin, Gridley and Pricketts Addition in Bloomington on a \$350 note payable from Ethan A. Mowrer to Elizabeth Erie (8% interest bearing with principal due 20 Nov 1880). W.B. Carlock is the grantee of the deed and must sell the land upon default.

Folder 11: James Gill Warrantee Deed

- 11.1 Warrantee Deed Ella Foote to James Gill March 20, 1899
- 11.2 James Gill People's Bank book , 1969

Folder 12: James Gill Correspondence

- 12.1 April 12, 1862, Binton Barracks, St. Louis. James Gill in to his sister Hannah. (*barracks, going to Arkansas in 3-4 days*)
- 12.2 September 26, 1862, Helena, Arkansas. James Gill to Mother. (*Death of Mary, blooming cotton fields, tell Hannah to write*)
- 12.3 February 22, 1963, Helena, Arkansas. James Gill to Mother. (*lots of sickness in regiment, 4 months' pay coming his way, names of superiors*)
- 12.4 February 26, 1863, Yazoo Pass. James Gill to Sister. (*On the way to Vicksburg, currently in Mississippi, expect a fight every hour, rainy*)
- 12.5 June 4, 1863, Helena, Arkansas. James Gill to Mother. (*Tired of camp food, Convent*) and sister (*glad family is well, will buy a gift when he gets money*)
- 12.6 February 21, 1864, Big Black River, Mississippi. James Gill to Mother and Sister, Hannah. (*Places they marched, burning forest*)
- 12.7 March 20, 1864, Alexandria, Louisiana. James Gill to Mother and Sister. (*Left Vicksburg on 10th and have traveled hundreds of miles, fighting*)
- 12.8 June 30, 1864, La Grange(?), Tennessee. James Gill to Mother and Sister (*working hard cutting trees, money enclosed*)

- 12.9 June 23, 1865, Selma, Alabama. James Gill to Sister and Mother. (*not coming home as soon as he though, has no had alcohol in 6 months and intends to keep it like that, drawing for Eddy*)
- 12.10 September 5, 1865, Marion, Alabama. James Gill to Sister and Mother (*expect you all to be well and happy when he returns to Bloomington, will be back before the 5th of November*)

LOOSE ITEMS:

Chicago & Alton Railroad Ledger Book 1919-1920