

McLean County Museum of History

Paul J Abraham Collection

Processed by
Estefani Lopez, Illinois State University Library/Archives Intern
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1936-1998
RESTRICTIONS:	None
PROVENANCE:	Gift
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

Brief History

Paul J. Abraham (1909-1989) was born in Flint, Michigan to Gregory and Elizabeth Nameth Abraham. He married Zelma D Riley on April 17, 1934. Paul J. Abraham served in the U.S Army from 1928 to 1934. He received the honorary grandfather title from the Rainbow Dancers Native Americans. He had worked as an electrical engineer at in Toledo, Ohio, and later in Peoria, Illinois.

Scope

The collection includes manuscripts, research, newspaper articles, and maps.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: General Information

- 1.1 "Homemade Knives Go to Army," *Pantagraph*, January 30, 1944, p.3
- 1.2 Obituary, Zelma Riley-Abraham, *Pantagraph*, September 9, 1995, p. 12.
- 1.3 Obituary, Paul J. Abraham, *Pantagraph*, January 28, 1998, p. 54/.

Folder 2: Arrowsmith / Meskwaki Siege

- 2.1 "Blocus du Fort," by Paul J. Abraham, 1974, 2 pp..
- 2.2 "The Jesuit Priest," by Abraham, no date, 3 pp.
- 2.3 "Arrowsmith Battle Field," by Abraham, no date, 1 p.
- 2.4 "Summary of Blocus du Fort," by Abraham, no date, 1 p.
- 2.5 Map of French Illinois Country with emphasis on Arrowsmith site, "Blocus du Fort 1730," by Abraham, 1 p.
- 2.6 Excerpt from McLean County Historical Society *Transactions*, Vol. IV, pages 33-43, by William B Brigham on "Etnataek," and Abraham's notes on same.
- 2.7 Notes, presumably Abraham's, 1 p.
- 2.8 "Blocus du Fort 170s, Williams Brigham, Bloomington Illinois," notes on Brigham's "error," 1 p.
- 2.9 "Etnataek," notes on Brigham, 2 pp.
- 2.10 Letter, "Historical Fact Finders Coterie," Peoria, Paul J. Abraham, to Greg (no surname), on "Blocus du Fort," undated.
- 2.11 Map on graph paper, hand-drawn, of French Illinois Country east of Blocus du Fort, undated.
- 2.12 Map of Blocus du Fort site, by Abraham, 1979, 1 p.
- 2.13 "The Arrowsmith Battlefield by William B. Brigham 1936—Findings by Paul J. Abraham," undated, 1 p.
- 2.14 Letter, unaddressed and unsigned, no date, 1 p.
- 2.15 Pencil / pen sketch of Kennekuk, Kickapoo Prophet," unsigned, 1 p.

Folder 3: Horton, Kansas visit

- 3.1 Journal, typed, 5 ½ by 8 ½ paper, on 1955 visit to Kansas Kickapoo, photocopy, 37 pp.
- 3.2 “Translation of the Characters on Stick and How Used by Issac [sp?] McCoy. 1840: Baptist Missions, 20 Years He Has Labored Amongst the Indians,” note at bottom signed Paul J. Abraham, 1949-1955, with handwritten, in pencil, note on left side, “Translated by Ben Cadu, Present Preacher and Teacher, Horton Jan. 1955,” 1 p.; attached is 14 by 8½ inch drawing of “Kan Ne Kuk Prayer Stick” with note by Paul J. Abraham, “Historical Fact Finder.”
- 3.3 Drawing of Prayer Stick (same as 5.2), 14 by 8½ inches, with note, “Copy of Prayer Stick Given to Paul Abraham by Ben Cadue.” 1 p.
- 3.4 Two copies of 2.15 pencil sketch of “Kan-Ne-Kuk.”

Folder 4: Braun Mound

- 4.1 Paper, typed, on findings of the Braun Mound, no date, author uncertain, 2 pp.
- 4.2 “1767 Kickapoo Indians 1954. The Findings of the Missing Link. Were [sic] Are the Kickapoo Indian Mounds?” Roland Braun, Farm, Wilburn [Wilbern], Illinois. 75 to 100 Skeletons. 2 Mounds, Findings by Paul J. Abraham,” 7 pp. (including title page).
- 4.3 Letter from Paul J Abraham, 3439 Royal Dr., Peoria, IL, to Greg (no surname or address), no date, 1 p.
- 4.4 “Indian Villages, Mounds, and Graves. Central Illinois,” typed manuscript by Paul J Abraham, undated, 2 pp.
- 4.5 “Wilbern Skeletons Indians’: U of I Prof,” newspaper article, no source of date.
- 4.6 “75-100 Human Skeletons Found on Area Farm,” *Peoria Journal*, May 13, 1954.
- 4.7 Photograph, 3 by 3½ inches, captioned on reverse, “McGregor at Braun site,” stamped June 2, 1954.
- 4.8 Map, 8½ by 11 inches of Illinois and Kickapoo sites, hand-drawn and colored with typed captions, by Paul J Abraham, no date.
- 4.9 “Land by Conquest,” manuscript by Paul J Abraham, no date, 6 pp.
- 4.10 Map, 14 by 8 1/2 inches, photocopy, partial of Illinois and Indiana territories with handwritten notes and markings, most in red ink, no date.

Folder 5: “Kan-Ne-Kuk’s” Church

- 5.1 “Indians Observe Religious Customs on Reservation Near Horton, Kas. Same as Ken Ne Kuk, Observed and Taught,” manuscript, typed photocopy, by Paul J. Abraham, no date, 4 pp.

Folder 6: Kennekuk and Kickapoo

- 6.1 “Kanakuk and Minor Prophets,” 14th Annual Report, of the B. of E. [Bureau of Ethnology], Powel [sic] 1892 and 1893,” typed, 8 pp.
- 6.2 “Kanakuk the Prophet, Prayer Stick, Kickapoo Indians,” from the 14th Annual Report Bureau of Ethnology, Part 2, typed, 2 pp.
- 6.3 “Isaac McCoy Baptist Mission, Hist of Indian Affairs,” typed, undated, 3 pp..
- 6.4 “Tenskwatawa, The Shawnee Prophet 1808-1831 / Kee-An-Ne-Kuk, The Kickapoo Prophet 1827-1834,” by Paul J Abraham, 1955, 3 pp.
- 6.5 Excerpts from *The Good Times in Mclean County* by Dr. E Duis., 1874, typed, 1 p.
- 6.6 “The Indian,” typed, no author, 2 pp.

- 6.7 “The Purpose of this report is to review ...” typed manuscript, no author, undated, 3 pp.
- 6.8 “Kannekuk The Prophet” by Paul J Abraham, no date, 4 pp.
- 6.9 “630 Souls Indian Grove ...” 5 by 7 inches, with illustration, 6½ by 8½ inches, no date, 2 pp.
- 6.10 “Prayer Sticks of the Praying Kickapoo Indians,” no author, undated, 1 p.
- 6.11 “Kannekuk, The Prophet, Prayer Stick, Translated, Issac McCoy ” by Issac [sp?] McCoy, Indian Affairs, of the Baptist Missions,” typed, 7 pp.
- 6.12 “Kanakuk or Kannekuk,” speech before General Clark, typed, 1 p.
- 6.13 “Kan N Kuk The Prophet of the Kickapoo Indians,” by Paul J Abraham, 1955, 1 p.
- 6.14 “No-Ma-Que: Kickapoo Indian, Kan-Ne-Kuk, band, Vermillion Tribe, Olivers Grove, Livingston Co Ill SE cor,” manuscript by P.J. Abraham, no date, 1 p.
- 6.15 “The Kickapoo Indians, Kannekuk the Prophet, The Praying Indians and Their Prayer Stick,” by Paul J. Abraham, typed, 11 by 8½ inch paper folded to make booklet, approx. 16 pp. (some duplicates).
- 6.16 “Mr. Catlin’s Indian Creed 1868,” typed, no date, 1 p.
- 6.17 “Mr. Catlin’s notes on the Kickapoo Indian (Illinois) 1831,” typed, no date, 1 p.
- 6.18 “Kanakuk’s Teaching of Heaven to his Followers,” no author, undated, 1 p
- 6.19 “Translation of the Characters on Stick and How Used,” by Issac [sp?] McCoy, 1 p.; with 6 pp. of notes on the Prayer Stick(s); and 6 pp. of “Characters Translated” notes—all typed, undated.
- 6.20 “The Prayer Stick of Kee An Ne Kuk,” Translation by Issac [sp?] McCoy,” typed, with pencil illustration of Prayer Stick, 1 p.
- 6.21 “Keeannekuk the Foremost Man. Kannekuk, The Prophet, Drunkard: Cheif [sic] of the Tribe. Kickapoos Praying Indians,” no author (presumed Abraham), no date, 3 pp.
- 6.22 Two pages, miscellany, first beginning, “In the year 1832 ...,” and the second, “Kannekuk [?] Prophet,” both by Abraham and undated, 2 pp.

Folder 7: Peoria

- 7.1 Map, hand-drawn, mostly in pencil, on folded manila envelope, of the Illinois River and the French Illinois Country, no author or date.
- 7.2 Set of seven maps, hand-drawn or traced, with typed notes, no author (presumably Abraham) or dates, 7 pp.
- 7.3 Map, 24 by 17½ inches, hand-drawn and colored, of Illinois River and Peoria area, no date
- 7.4 “LaSalle’s Fort Creve Couer ... Findings by Paul J. Abraham ...,” 1981, cover sheet and 7 pp.
- 7.5 Letter to David B. McCullough from Aquilla J. Davis, Tremont, IL, copy, no date, 2 pp.

Folder 8: Kickapoo

- 8.1 “Issac [sp?] McCoy, Baptist Mission Hist of Indian Affairs,” 3 pp. on Kickapoo burial practices.
- 8.2 “Kannekuk The Kickapoo Prophet,” on 5 by 7 inch paper, typed, no author, undated, 1 p.
- 8.3 “Indian Campsites Established, The Kickapoo’s Villages,” typed, no author, undated, 2 pp.
- 8.4 “Kickapoo Indians,” typed, no author, undated, 3 pp. (third page typed in reverse—to be viewed in mirror).

- 8.5 "The Indian," typed, no author, undated, 2 pp.
- 8.6 "The Kickapoo Indian," = no author, undated, 3 pp.
- 8.7 "The Indian," one paragraph on facial hair, = no author, undated, 1 p.
- 8.8 "Early Christian Martyrs," no author, undated, 1 p.
- 8.9 "Land By Conquest," no author, undated, 2 pp.
- 8.10 "Let Us Bear In Mind that the Indian Was a Lazy Man," typed, no author (presumably Abraham), no date, 4 pp.
- 8.11 "No-Ma-Que, Kickapoo Indian Tried for Murder ...," no author, undated, 4 pp.
- 8.12 "No-Ma-Que ...," typed, undated, 1 pp.
- 8.13 "The Diggers, and the Fact Finders," typed, no author, undated, 1 pp.
- 8.14 Miscellaneous research notes / papers on the Kickapoo, 16 pp.

Folder 9: Native American Honor Ceremony

- 9.1 "Indians to Gather, Honor CC Man," *Pekin Daily Times*, June 22, 1996, pp. A1, A10.
- 9.2 Flyer, Native American Honor Ceremony, Fort Creve Couer, June 29, 1996 .

Folder 10: Livingston County

- 10.1 "History of Livingston County," by Paul J Abraham, typed, no date, 8 pp. (includes material that appears in the Kickapoo folder).

Folder 11: 40 Acres

- 11.1 "The Historical Value. The 40 Acres. The West Side," by Paul J Abraham, January 25, 1981, photocopy of typed manuscript, 3 pp. (with 5 pp. of manuscript).

Folder 12: Bricks

- 12.1 Notes on local brick, 6 pp. of photocopied manuscript on 3 pp.
- 12.2 "The 'un common' Brick," notes by Paul J Abraham, on 5 by 7 inch paper, includes two hand-drawn maps, June 1975.
- 12.3 Three maps, 5½ by 8½ inches, relating to Bloomington locations of dumps containing old bricks.

Folder 13: Butchering and Meat

- 13.1 "Butchering & Meat Preparation. Magars, Hungarians, Germans," by Paul J. Abraham, typed, 3 pp.
- 13.2 "Kolbas (Magars) 40 Acres," no author (presumed Abraham), no date, 6 pp.