

McLean County Museum of History

The Bloomington Club

Processed by
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1886 – 2012
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:	

Brief History

The Bloomington Club was formed on September 13, 1886. The Club was the idea of a young lawyer, William H. Beaver, who was new to Bloomington and thought the city should have a representative club. The primary objective was to promote the business interests of the city of Bloomington and the social enjoyments of the members of the club. The club helped fund the building of Withers Library at 210 East Washington Street and rented space there from 1888 to 1910. A new building, designed by Arthur Pillsbury, was in the planning stages in 1910 at 210 East Washington Street, and in 1912 the Club moved to its new quarters. In 1975 the Club relocated to the second floor of the Illinois House, and by 1998 was meeting in the Elks Club building. The Club disbanded in 2003 or 2004.

Scope

The collection includes newspaper clippings, original rule books governing the Club, proposals for individual memberships, letters of resignation, record books, chart of accounts, bills, financial records, original incorporation documents and miscellaneous correspondence.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Newspaper clippings (photo copies)

- 1.1 Business Men's Club, *Pantagraph*, February 7, 1888 "Formal Opening of the New Quarters in the Library – The Reception and Rooms."
- 1.2 "New Clubhouse is Now Assured" *Pantagraph*, November 8, 1909.
- 1.3 "Bloomington Club Gets Pollock House" *Pantagraph*, January 8, 1910.
- 1.4 "Beautiful and Commodious New Home for the Bloomington Club" *Pantagraph* July 9, 1910. Drawing of Pillsbury design for building included.
- 1.5 "Half Century to be Marked" "Bloomington Club Celebration Thursday" *Pantagraph* October 19, 1937.
- 1.6 "Dr. H.P. Sloan Will Lead Club" *Pantagraph*, November 10, 1937.
- 1.7 "Bloomington Club 54 Years Old; Vault Yields Founding Documents" *Pantagraph*. September 14, 1940.
- 1.8 "Bloomington Club to Expand; Remodel Rooms" *Pantagraph*, May 29, 1949.
- 1.9 "Male bastion weakens—some—for women" *Pantagraph*, December 2, 1979.
- 1.10 "Women allowed, but rarely seen, at Bloomington Club" *Pantagraph*, August 8, 1986.
- 1.11 "Now You Know...Where Decorum Began" *Community News*, November 29 – December 5, 1989.
- 1.12 "Bloomington Club built for men's club, others" *Pantagraph*, June 21, 1998.
- 1.13 "Bloomington Club once gathering place for city's select" *Pantagraph*, June 10, 2010.

Folder 2: Rule Books for the Bloomington Club

- 2.1 1889 Constitution, House Rules and List of Members.
- 2.2 1889 Constitution, House Rules and List of Members photocopy.
- 2.3 1906 Constitution, House Rules and List of Members (2).

Folder 3: Individual Proposals for Membership 1891 – 1893

- 3.1 Twenty-nine (29) individual proposals made by members for new members

Folder 4: Individual Letters of Resignation

- 4.1 W. L. Marmon, September 1889.
4.2 Chester E. Latham, February 24, 1890
4.3 I. P. Fell nd
4.4 H. F. Hawley, 1892
4.5 J. W. Evans, January 2, 1893
4.6 H. A. Miner, January 20, 1893
4.7 B. S. Green, July 10, 1893
4.8 Benjamin Lucas, July 13, 1893
4.9 Alonzo Burr, December 30, 1893
4.10 R. M. Dodson, September 25, 1894
4.11 R. H. Parmalie, December 30, 1893
4.12 Josh Roney, June 1, 1894
4.13 L. T. Wilcox, June 16, 1894
4.14 George H. Cox, June 29, 1894
4.15 Aaron Livingston, July, 1894
4.16 Thos. M. Kimball, October 1, 1894
4.17 J. P. McLean, October 10, 1894
4.18 Frank C. Capen, November 2, 1894
4.19 H. Capen, November 27, 1894
4.20 A. B. Hoblit, December 29, 1894
4.21 L. E. Ijams, December 29, 1894
4.22 H. M. Fleming, January 1, 1895
4.23 C. A. Funk, April, 1895
4.24 K. J. Bemis, April 15, 1895
4.25 Edwin Miner, April 29, 1895
4.26 J. H. Rowell, May 4, 1895
4.27 Geo. R. Frisbie, June 1, 1896

Folder 5: Ledger Book – Statement of Accounts 1906-1915

- 5.1 Ledger

Folder 6: Miscellaneous Financial Records

- 6.1 Listing of ticket sales.
6.2 The receipts of the Club for the year justending 1906.
6.3 Table showing income for the club n.d.
6.4 Table of expenses for the club n.d.
6.5 Ledger page showing receipts and disbursements for June 1907 – June 1908.
6.6 Receipt from Bloomington Club, February 1, 1908.
6.7 Receipts and Disbursements report to President and Directors of Club from Treasurer S W Waddle, September 1, 1903.

- 6.8 Financial report to President and Directors of the Bloomington Club from Treasurer S W Waddle, September 3, 1907.

Folder 7: Bills and Invoices to Bloomington Club

- 7.1 Pantagraph Stationery Company for invitations and tickets, Feb 18, 1888.
7.2 Robert Loudon, Eagle Machine Works for chandeliers, brackets, and fittings, December 14, 1888 2pp.
7.3 Harlan Brothers Wholesale Cigars and Tobacco, February 21, 1905.
7.4 Consumers Heat and Electric Co, January 31, 1905.
7.5 Consumers Heat and Electric Co. January 31, 1905.
7.6 Cooper and Kerns – rental of crockery for lunch, February 28, 1905.
7.7 Marshall Field & Co. for carpet, October, 1891.

Folder 8: Member Accounts 1913 – 1916

- 8.1 Ledger

Folder 9: Miscellaneous Correspondence

- 9.1 Letter from the Fourth of July Celebration Committee requesting use of meeting space. June 24, 1891.
9.2 Letter from Garden City Billiard Table Co. September 7, 1888.
9.3 Letter from Tazewell Club (on Zerwekh's stationery) asking for a copy of Bloomington Club letterhead.

Folder 10: Miscellaneous Documents including Incorporation Documents

- 10.1 City Directory Search for the Bloomington Club 1889 – 1994.
10.2 Flyer from House Committee announcing Billiard Exhibition at the Club.
10.3 Application for Incorporation in the State of Illinois (mostly illegible).
10.4 Official Incorporation Document from State of Illinois, 1886.
10.5 Minutes of meeting, September 3 (year unclear).
10.6 Dance card program from Thanksgiving Eve, 1913 belonging to Williams.
10.7 Postcard invitation to a "Trot Home Early" dance, February 6, 1925. Addressed to Miss Edna Yoke.
10.8 Rummy card game score sheet. Donated by Lou Ulbruch, May, 2012.

Folder 11: Secondary Source Material

- 11.1 "Home Town in the Corn Belt" A Source History of Bloomington, Illinois, 1950. Includes typescriptions of 1926 and 1888 newspaper articles plus list of officers, standing committees and members 1889-1906. 17 pp.
11.2 "Rediscovery: The Stories of Withers Public Library" 2004.
11.3 Listing of Bloomington Club's original officers and directors capturing city directory information. 2pp.
11.4 Email message from artist William Butler to Bill Kemp about lessees' use of building in 1970s. Includes a message from Butler's mother concerning family connections to the Bloomington Club. June 21, 2010.