

McLean County Museum of History

Marguerite E. Clark Collection

Processed by
John Richmond
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1972-1989
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

Marguerite E. (Dobson) Clarke (1916-2007) was a lifelong resident of Bloomington. She received a degree from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1962, having paused her education in 1937 because of the Great Depression. After receiving her degree, she taught in Saybrook-Arrowsmith for a year, and then served as a substitute teacher in the Bloomington-Normal area for 20 years. She married Harold Dee Clarke and had two daughters. She wrote extensively about Bloomington-Normal, covering the late nineteenth century and large portions of the twentieth century, with emphasis on a) the Bloomington-Normal community over time, b) the Depression, and c) World War II. The building of the McLean County Courthouse and its preservation are of particular interest.

Scope

The collection includes manuscripts devoted to building the McLean County Courthouse; a retrospective history of Bloomington in 1891; a history of Bloomington-Normal in the 1930s; and the G.A.R. and the last veterans of the Civil War. There is also a published paperbound book, *Tales and Details of World War II Plus a Few Reflections* (1989).

Folder 1: General Information

- 1.1 Obituary, *Pantagraph*, 26 December 2007.

Folder 2: McLean County Courthouse

- 2.1 Typewritten manuscript, *Building the Courthouse Erected in 1900-1903*. One-page erratum, possibly re: information omitted from manuscript (as part of correspondence with the ed. of the *Pantagraph*).
- 2.2 Letter to the ed., presumably of the *Pantagraph*, dated 27 January 1972. Chronology of events related to the Courthouse, 1965-1969.

Folder 3: Bloomington, Retrospect

- 3.1 Typewritten manuscript, *A City in Retrospect: Bloomington, Illinois 1891*. Dated March 1972; 55 pp. Epilogue, 7 pp. Includes bibliography. Divisions (chapters) include: Foreword; About Town; Business and Industry; Transportation; Foods, Markets and Prices; "Now Open Your Mouth!" (newspaper ads, brief community news items); Society; Fashions, Foibles and Family; Church Relations; Police Protection; Boys in Blue: Veterans and their Doings; Union Participation; Jurisprudence, Elections; Sports Activities; Homes and Acreages; Livestock and Horses; Entertainment. Epilogue follows "Entertainment."

Folder 4: Bloomington, Thirties

- 4.1 Typewritten manuscript, *Bloomington-Normal: The Traumatic, Thrilling and Tension filled Thirties*. Dated March 1974; 54 pp. Includes bibliography. Manuscript is divided into four parts: 1930-1932, 1933-1935, 1936, 1937-1939.

Folder 5: Civil War Veterans

- 5.1 Typewritten manuscript, *And then There Were None: The Last of the Civil War Veterans*. Dated 1973; revised 1976 and 1982; 45 pp. Includes bibliography.

Folder 6: World War II Book

- 6.1 Tales and Details of World War II Plus a few Reflections, 1989. Forward, Epilogue (in that order), Introduction, 15 chapters, Appendix; v, 232 pp. Contents based on various published, copyrighted sources and author's interviews with World War II veterans.