

**McLean County Museum of History**

**Julius Dietrich Collection**

Processed by  
Robert Bradley  
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**Collection Information**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1883-1910
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:	See also Photos – People - Dietrich

## Brief History

Julius Dietrich was a well-liked, prominent resident of Bloomington for almost two decades. He was probably best known for being the owner and editor of the *Bloomington Journal*, the only German-language newspaper in McLean County and generally regarded as one of the best in central Illinois.

Julius was born in September, 1858 (the exact date is unknown) in Heinteben, Saxony, Germany. He received his early education in German schools and colleges. Julius came to America in 1878 and during his first two years in the country he attended a college in Carthage, Illinois. After those two years, Julius traveled through southern and western states giving concerts on his instrument of choice, which was the zither. In 1887, he settled in Streator and worked for a German newspaper there, which was called the *Volksblatt*. In 1888, he married Mary Neff in Streator. They eventually had five children.

In 1891, Julius and Mary moved to Bloomington. Once in Bloomington, Julius purchased the *Bloomington Journal* and began his service as the newspaper's editor. Perhaps as an attempt to become more familiar with the German population in Bloomington, Julius wrote a book, *Bloomington's German Population in Word and Picture*, Volume 1 in July 1893. The book includes interviews of prominent German residents of Bloomington, accounts of local historic landmarks for the German population, and a description of German immigration to the city.

While living in Bloomington, Julius joined a number of social clubs and community organizations including the: Odd Fellows, Turners, Masons, the Red Men, the German Benefit Society, the Personal Liberty League, the Bloomington Kennel Club, and the Illinois State Skat League. In some of the groups, Julius served as an officer. He was the Secretary for the Bloomington Kennel Club and for the Illinois State Skat League. He served as President of the Turners and the Personal Liberty League. He was also a member of United German Societies of Bloomington, and organized the group's campaign against the local prohibition movement. He also was well-known for his prowess as a gymnast, a musician, and a singer.

Julius also belonged to professional associations including the Illinois German Editorial Association and an association of German newspapers in the central states of the nation. He served as Vice-President of the Illinois German Editorial Association. About a year before his death, Julius was appointed by the Governor of Illinois to the position of deputy game warden.

Julius died on May 13, 1910; shortly after surgery for a kidney ailment. The primary cause of his death was said to be a heart condition with which he suffered for at least five years before his death but did not seek treatment for. On the day of his funeral, the Bloomington saloons closed for an hour that afternoon to honor his death and his efforts in opposition to the local prohibition movement.

## Scope

The Dietrich Collection consists both of public and private materials that primarily come from his life in Bloomington, Illinois. The collection is in one small box. There are 13 folders in the

box and one post card album. Folder one contains a number of press accounts of Julius Dietrich's death and other press stories about some of his civic activities. Folder two contains a handwritten draft of an essay on German immigration to McLean County. Folder three contains a list of German names and addresses. Folder four contains personal letters on Dietrich's death. Folder five contains material about Osceola, a Seminole leader. Folder six contains material about the *Bloomington Journal*. Folder seven contains several letters in German. Folder eight contains the original marriage certificate of Julius Dietrich and Maria Neff. Folder nine contains material in regard to dogs. Folder ten contains materials about the Turners. Folder eleven contains miscellaneous material on Julius Dietrich. Folder 12 contains some cards. Folder 13 contains material in regard to some of the fraternal organizations that Julius belonged to. The post card album contains post cards.

## **Box and Folder Inventory**

### **Folder 1: General**

- 1.1 Two typed notices of Julius Dietrich's death in German with English translations, undated, 2 pages.
- 1.2 Three photocopied newspaper stories on Julius Dietrich's death with English translations by Eleanor Mede in July 2004, undated, 4 pages.
- 1.3 Multiple copies of the Obituary of Julius Dietrich, *Pantagraph*, May 14, 1910. page. [added by staff in 2013]
- 1.4 Copy of "Friends Mourn German Editor", *Pantagraph*, undated. 1 page.
- 1.5 Sheet of copies of six newspaper stories on Julius Dietrich, undated. 1 page.
- 1.6 Sheet of copies of two newspaper stories on Julius Dietrich, undated. 1 page.
- 1.7 Sheet that has a copy of a story on Julius Dietrich in German, undated. 1 page.
- 1.8 Sheet with copies of 10 newspaper stories that include mention of Julius Dietrich, undated. 1 page.
- 1.9 Sheet with copies of seven newspaper stories that include mention of Julius Dietrich, undated. 1 page. Two of the stories are in German.
- 1.10 Sheet with copies of four newspaper stories that include mention of Julius Dietrich, undated. 1 page.
- 1.11 Photos of the Officers of the Newly Organized Illinois State Skat League, *The Chicago Sunday Tribune*, March 27, 1904. (the original story in a plastic sleeve) 1 page.
- 1.12 Copy of Photos of the Officers of the Newly Organized Illinois State Skat League, *The Chicago Sunday Tribune*, March 27, 1904. 1 page.
- 1.13 Photo of Julius Dietrich and his dogs in the front of the building that housed the *Bloomington Journal*, undated. 1 page.

### **Folder 2: Emigration to McLean County**

- 2.1 "The German Emigration to McLean County", handwritten essay, undated. 12 pages.

### **Folder 3: Kriegerverein (veterans association) Member Roster**

- 3.1 Member Roster of Deutsche Kriegerverein von Bloomington. Shows names and addresses in Bloomington, IL, undated. 1 page in a plastic sleeve.

**Folder 4: Letters on Dietrich's death**

- 4.1 Letter from Father Raymond to Julius Dietrich shortly before his death, April 30, 1910. 1 sheet in a plastic sleeve.
- 4.2 Letter from Father Raymond to Dear Friends about Julius Dietrich's death, May 18, 1910. 1 page in a plastic sleeve.
- 4.3 Letter from Father Raymond to Kind Friends about Julius Dietrich's death, July 5, 1910. 1 page in a plastic sleeve.
- 4.4 Western Union telegram from Wm. Ackerman & Wife, May 16, 1910. 1 page.
- 4.5 Letter from Dr. A. J. Woodcock, May 5, 1910. 1 page in a plastic sleeve.
- 4.6 German statements of condolences with English translations, undated. 3 pages.
- 4.7 Statement of sympathy from the members of Oceola Tribe No. 28, Improved Order of Red Men, undated. 1 page.
- 4.8 Letter of regret from Barnhart Bros. & Spindler, May 24, 1910. 1 page in a plastic sleeve.

**Folder 5: Osceola**

- 5.1 A handwritten brief biography of Osceola, undated. 1 page in a plastic sleeve.
- 5.2 A longer handwritten brief biography of Osceola, undated. 1 page in a plastic sleeve.
- 5.3 A handwritten document in German, undated. 4 pages.

**Folder 6: Bloomington Journal material**

- 6.1 Handwritten letter in German on The Bloomington Journal stationary [3], undated. 1 page in a plastic sleeve.
- 6.2 Handwritten letter in German on The Bloomington Journal stationary [4], undated. 1 page in a plastic sleeve.
- 6.3 Handwritten letter in German on The Bloomington Journal stationary [5], undated. 1 page in a plastic sleeve.
- 6.4 Handwritten letter in German on The Bloomington Journal stationary [7] with typed column on back, undated. 1 page in a plastic sleeve.
- 6.5 Typed column in German on The Bloomington Journal stationary [6] with handwritten notes, undated. 1 page in a plastic sleeve.
- 6.6 The Bloomington Journal: The Only German Newspaper in McLean Co. 1 page in a plastic sleeve.
- 6.7 Five Julius Dietrich, editor of Bloomington Journal, business cards in a plastic sleeve.
- 6.8 In Account with Bloomington Journal forms, 3 pages in a plastic sleeve.
- 6.9 Postal card to Mr. Julius Dietrich, Bloomington Journal, 1 page in a plastic sleeve.
- 6.10 Top of In Account form for Bloomington Journal for Johnson Transfer in a plastic sleeve.
- 6.11 Two Bloomington Journal envelopes in a plastic sleeve.
- 6.12 Handwritten essay in German for the Bloomington Journal, dated in German. 3 pages in plastic sleeve.
- 6.13 Handwritten notes in German on Bloomington Journal stationary, undated. 4 pages in plastic sleeve.

**Folder 7: German letters**

- 7.1 Letter from Deutscher Press-Derein von Illinois, September 11, 1910. 1 page in plastic sleeve.

- 7.2 Letter from Deutcher Radfahrer-Bund E.V., 1910. 1 page in plastic sleeve.
- 7.3 Letter to Main gutve Lamiere Julius, undated. 2 pages in plastic sleeve.
- 7.4 Letter to Werthe Frau Dietrich, May 28, 1910. 1 page in plastic sleeve.
- 7.5 Letter to Linbe Tante Marie, undated. 1 page in plastic sleeve.
- 7.6 Letter to Lehr gechrte, liobic Tante, undated. 1 page in plastic sleeve.
- 7.7 Two postcards to Julius Dietrich written in German in plastic sleeve

**Folder 8: Marriage Certificate**

- 8.1 Marriage certificate in German issued between Richard Julius Dietrich and Anna Maria Neff on April 12, 1888.

**Folder 9: Dogs**

- 9.1 Photo of dachshund presumably belonging to Julius Dietrich in plastic sleeve.
- 9.2 Official Guide and Premium List for Annual Dog Show of the Bloomington Kennel Club, January 27-30, 1909 in plastic sleeve.
- 9.3 Envelope from Third Annual Dog Show at Coliseum, January 27-30, 1909.

**Folder 10: Turner Material**

- 10.1 Handwritten letter in German on Central Illinois Turnbezirks stationary, undated. 1 page in a plastic sleeve.
- 10.2 Program for Golden Jubilee of Turn-Verein, November 15, 1908. In a plastic sleeve.
- 10.3 The top portion of the Central Illinois Turnbezirk, April 1896. In a plastic sleeve.
- 10.4 The Prolog in German and Menu for a meeting, undated. In a plastic sleeve.
- 10.5 Notice in German of Meeting in Bloomington on October 10, 1899. In a plastic sleeve.
- 10.6 List of Turnfelt-Comites in unknown newspaper, undated. In a plastic sleeve.
- 10.7 Programm of Abend-Unterhaltung in the Turn-Halle, April 2. In a plastic sleeve.
- 10.8 Bummel-Lied, December 10, 1883. 1 page in plastic sleeve.
- 10.9 Program of Instrumental and Vocal Concert in the Turnhalle, October 6. In a plastic sleeve.
- 10.10 Postal Card-One Cent addressed to Werther Turnbruder. In a plastic sleeve.
- 10.11 Program for Reopening of Turner Hall, November 2, 1903. In a plastic sleeve.

**Folder 11: Miscellaneous Material**

- 11.1 Letter to Congressman John A. Sterling from the Executive Department for the State of Illinois regarding Dietrich's visit and "matter," April 10, 1907. 1 p.
- 11.2 Handwritten letter on stationery of Central Station of the Bloomington Fire Department about a murder, undated. 1 p.
- 11.3 Typed version of handwritten letter of 11.2 entry, undated. 1 page.
- 11.4 Expense vouchers for State Game Department.
- 11.5 Telegram to Julius Dietrich from Geo Stubblefield.

**Folder 12: Cards**

- 12.1 Welcome Home 33<sup>rd</sup> Division, June 2, 1919 in a plastic sleeve.
- 12.2 The Relief Hotel card in a plastic sleeve.
- 12.3 Miss Amelia M. Dietrich card in a plastic sleeve.
- 12.4 Best wishes card.

12.5 Handwritten card for Chas. Raymond, March 20, 1888.

**Folder 13: Fraternal Orgs.**

- 13.1 Resolutions of Respect in memory of Julius Dietrich by the Mozart Lodge of the Masons, May 13, 1910. 1 page in a plastic sleeve. Easter Card and envelope, March 21, 1940. 1 page.
- 13.2 Official Bulletin I.O.O.F. Meetings, November 17, 1909. 1 page in a plastic sleeve.
- 13.3 Certificate of Membership for Julius Dietrich to Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, May 6, 1908. 1 page in a plastic sleeve.

**Post Card Album**