

McLean County Museum of History

Exhibit - Irish “The Greening of the Prairie” 2012-14

Processed by
Carol Straka Spring 2012

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	Two boxes (B&A size)
COLLECTION DATES:	1846- 2011
PROVENANCE:	Curator Greg Koos accumulated the research prepared for this exhibit by staff, interns, and volunteers.
RESTRICTIONS:	Gaelic language manuals are fragile. Request help from archivist.
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: Irish Railroad Workers' Memorial Collection

Brief History

Staff, interns, and volunteers researched and prepared the long-term exhibit “The Greening of the Prairie: Irish Immigration and Settlement in McLean County.” Greg Koos served as curator, with research assistance from intern Jessica Hinterlong, volunteer Eileen Kanzler and many others. The exhibit opened March 2012 and ran through early 2016.

Scope Note

This collection includes the exhibit script, research materials not found elsewhere in our collections, and research notes. Research materials include oral history interviews, newspaper articles (local, regional, and international), family histories, census and city directory data and analyses, periodical articles, plat map analyses, and more.

Box 1 (18 Folders)

Exhibit Outline (Folder 1)

Folder 1: Irish Exhibit Outline

- 1.1.1 Partly illustrated draft of text for museum exhibit, 2011, 93pp.
- 1.1.2 CD of final exhibit images and text, 2012.

Research Analyses (Folders 2-5)

Folder 2: Jessica Hinterlong Analyses 2011

- 1.2.1 Irish Temperance, 5 pp, incl. newspaper excerpts, etc.
- 1.2.2 Irish Organizations in McLean County, 12 pp.
- 1.2.3 St. Patrick's Day celebrations, 33 pp incl. newspaper excerpts
- 1.2.4 Poor Farm Collection info, 4 pp.
- 1.2.5 County origins of Irish Immigrants in McLean County, 3 pp.
- 1.2.6 Hinterlong's notes on her internship experiences, 3 pp.

Folder 3: Census and City Directory Data & Analyses

- 1.3.1 1860, 1870 & 1880 Census Analysis, 7 pp.
- 1.3.2 Occupational summary for 1860, 1870 & 1880 census, 9 pp.
- 1.3.3 Demographic analyses for 1860, 1870 & 1880 census, 2 pp.
- 1.3.4 1855 Bloomington City Directory listing for "Irish," 2 pp.
- 1.3.5 Analysis of Irish professions from city directories of 1911, 1930, 1940, 4 pp.

Folder 4: Plat Map Info for Out-of-Town Irish

- 1.4.1 Dan Leifel's data from plats for 1866, 1874, 1895, and 1914, 5 pp.

Folder 5: Dunn's Article

- 1.5.1 "A Green Wave on the Central Illinois Prairie: 1860-1880," draft article by Mark T. Dunn, 2009, 26 pp. Concerns Irish immigrants and is based partly on accompanying census analysis.
- 1.5.2 "Part of 1870 Census of Bloomington, McLean County, Illinois, related to Foundry Workers, Moulders, and Boiler Makers," William and Diane Detmers, undated, 14 pp. Data extracts.

Family Histories (Folders 6 – 8)

See Folder 17 & 18 for electronic audio recordings of these interviews.

Folder 6: Oral History Interviews

- 1.6.1 Dan Brady about Brady and Walsh families, 2009.
- 1.6.2 Daniel Deneen about Deneen and Ryan families, 2009.
- 1.6.3 Patty Laesch Heffernan DeSchepper about Heffernan family, 2009.
- 1.6.4 Marjorie Kraft Dickerson about Costigan and Kraft families, 2009.
- 1.6.5 Marty Hoeniges about O'Brien family, 2010.
- 1.6.6 Dan Kelly about Kelly and Killian families, 2009.
- 1.6.7 Mary Louise Kelly about Kelly and Brady families, 2009.

Folder 7: Oral History Interviews

- 1.7.1 John Killian about Jas Kinsella & Patrick Larkin families, 2009.
- 1.7.2 Jim Kinsella about Kinsella family, 2009.
- 1.7.3 Greg Koos about O'Neil family, 2009.
- 1.7.4 Marietta McManus about McManus family, 2010
- 1.7.5 John E. Reidy & Suzanne Costigan Reidy about Reidy and Costigan families, 2009.
- 1.7.6 Thomas Shea about Shea family, 2009.
- 1.7.7 Margaret Hayes Theis about Kalahar and Hayes families, 2009.
- 1.7.8 Patricia O'Neil Wannemacher about O'Neil family, 2009.
- 1.7.9 Stephen Young about Costello and Gallagher families, 2009.
- 1.7.10 Interviewee release forms.

Folder 8: Family Info: includes various info about Brady, Cleary, Costello, Cunningham, Degnan, Deneen, Evans (Murphy), Fitzgerald, Heffernan, Hennessy, Irvin, Kalahar, Killian, Kinsella, McCarthy, Moore, Murphy, O'Malley, Ryan, Walsh.

Newspaper Articles (Folders 9 – 14)

Folder 9: Local newspaper articles, 1850-1879, about 30 articles plus some handwritten excerpts.

Folder 10: Local newspaper articles, 1880-1899, about 35 articles.

Folder 11: Local newspaper articles, 1900-1956, about 20 articles.

Folder 12: Excerpts from local newspaper articles, 1866-1904, 14 pp.

Folder 13: Eight *Chicago Tribune* articles, 1866-1893.

Folder 14: Articles from Irish newspapers, 1846-1968:

- Anglo-Celt*, 6 articles
- Irish Independent*, 5 articles
- Munster Express*, 3 articles
- Nation*, 9 articles
- Others, 4 articles

Miscellaneous (Folders 15- 17)

Folder 15: Miscellaneous

1.15.1 List of Irish tombstones at Holy Cross Cemetery, Merna, by Mary Stack, 2011.

1.15.2 Transcriptions of Irish songs, 5pp.

Folder 16: Gaelic language lesson books

1.16.1 *Simple Lessons in Irish, Part I*, 1894?, 78 pp. Covers missing.

1.16.2 *Simple Lessons in Irish, Part II*, The Gaelic League (Dublin), 1918, 85 pp., 2 copies.

1.16.3 *Irish at Home*, 1921, 54 pp.

Folder 17: Local Irish Obituaries (added December 2014)

Audio Recordings of Oral History Interviews (Folders 18-19)

Folder 18: 4 CDs of audio recordings of oral history interviews See folders 6 and 7 for transcriptions of these interviews.

(Note: 3 CDs plus presumably one more when staffer Torii More converts old cassettes from 2009 & 2010 to digital media.)

Folder 19: Seven (7) audio cassettes of oral history interviews

(Note: external hard drive has some digitized recordings – eventually the Archivist may eliminate these audio cassettes. That will reduce the collection to ONE box again.)