

McLean County Museum of History

German Baptist Church Collection

Processed by
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1874-1989
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:	Listed at end of Finding Aid
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	

Brief History

The German Baptist Church of Bloomington, Illinois, was located at the southwest corner of West Locust Street and Western Avenue. It first appeared in the 1876-1877 City Directory as the German Baptist Chapel, with listings after 1880 identifying it as the German Baptist Church. Church membership consisted of German-speaking immigrants and remained small in number. A dwindling membership and anti-German sentiment aroused by World War I were contributing factors to the disbanding of the congregation in 1915. Some of the members joined the English-speaking First Baptist Church of Bloomington.

As of 1989, three original record books from the German Baptist Church were extant and kept at the First Baptist Church, 401 E. Jefferson Street, Bloomington, Illinois. There are two books of minutes and one book containing a membership roster. The minute books are, with a few minor exceptions, chronological in order and apparently kept in a timely manner. The roster book appears to have been started about June 1889 with much of the information submitted by the members themselves. Generally, the contents were written in the old German script, with only an occasional use of an English word. Spelling of names fluctuated greatly.

In the translation typescripts, an attempt has been made to follow the original spelling and punctuation, as well as to keep the words which appear on a page in the translation of that page. Words difficult to determine are marked with a footnote.

Note: This Brief History is taken from the Editor and Compiler's Notes covering the typed translations of the minutes, written by Nola G. Marquardt of Carlock, Illinois, July 1, 1989. The translations were made by Dr. Else Schmidt, retired Professor of Geography at Illinois State University, and Albert Post, retired farmer of rural Flanagan, Illinois.

Scope

The German Baptist Church Collection is comprised of photocopies of the original minute record books and membership roster, described above. Folders 2-5 contain typed translations of the minutes. Photocopies of the original minutes in German are included in Folders 6-10. The Collection is organized as follows:

Membership Lists - Folder 1,
English translation of Minutes in Book I (1874-1890) - Folders 2 & 3,
English translation of Minutes in Book II (1890-1915) - Folders 4 & 5,
German photocopies of Minutes (1874-1915) – Folders 6 & 7,
German photocopies of Minutes (1890-1894) – Folders 8, 9 & 10.

Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Membership Lists

- 1.1 Book III: Membership Roster, 1893 to March 7, 1911, English, includes description of original record book, 4pp.
- 1.2 German membership list, June 1880-1911, 26pp.

**Folder 2: Minutes Book I: English
pp. 1-54**

**Folder 3: Minutes Book I: English
pp. 55-115**

**Folder 4: Minutes Book II: English
pp. 1-65**

**Folder 5: Minutes Book II: English
pp. 66-146**

**Folder 6: Minutes (1874-1915) German
pp. 1-51**

**Folder 7: Minutes (1874-1915) German
pp. 52-112**

**Folder 8: Minutes (1890-1894) German
pp. 1-33**

**Folder 9: Minutes (1890-1894) German
pp. 34-74**

**Folder 10: Minutes (1890-1894) German
pp. 75-123, 140-44**