

McLean County Museum of History

Violet Hamilton Collection

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Processed by
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 box
COLLECTION DATES:	1954-2011
PROVENANCE:	Gift
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:	None

Biographical Sketch

Violet Hamilton was born in Chicago, a daughter of John Ellis Wenneberg and Frances Ann Klober. She married A. Bruce Hamilton in Chicago and moved with him to Normal, Illinois. She was the mother of three daughters.

Hamilton was an active citizen of Normal and McLean County, where she wrote a Centennial Pageant for the town of Normal in 1965, was a Girl Scout leader, and was a citizen activist involved in many issues of her time. She was a close observer of local, state and federal governments, and local political and social movements. Whenever she felt strongly about an issue she spoke out by writing letters to news publications and government officials. From 1975 to 1983 she voiced her opinions on radio station WJBC AM 1230's "Forum" series.

Scope and Content Note

The Violet Hamilton Collection contains copies of many letters written by Mrs. Hamilton from 1962 through 1989, the texts of her WJBC "Forum" series talks, and newspaper clippings about local persons, organizations and issues. There are also copies of reports she and others wrote about local meetings concerning current issues. The reports include topics discussed and lists of persons who attended the meetings and their comments during the meetings. Also included are some copies of selected journal and booklets about current issues which concerned her. Three ledger books from the Hamilton Wilbert Vault Company, her husband's business, are included.

Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Biographical Material

- 1.1 A. Bruce Hamilton obituary, April 4, 1973
- 1.2 Violet Hamilton obituary, May 10, 2011
- 1.3 Violet Hamilton resume, undated
- 1.4 Various personal memorabilia

Folder 2: Normal Centennial Pageant

Newspaper clippings about the pageant and a program.

Folder 3: Letters to Violet Hamilton

Various personal letters written to Mrs. Hamilton from 1972 through 1988.

Folder 4: Letters by Violet Hamilton I

- 4.1 1962, and 1965-1967

Folder 5: Letters by Violet Hamilton II

5.1 1968

Folder 6: Letters by Violet Hamilton III

6.1 1969

Folder 7: Letters by Violet Hamilton IV

7.1 1970-1974

Folder 8: Letters by Violet Hamilton V

8.1 1975-1979

Folder 9: Letters by Violet Hamilton VI

9.1 1980-1989

Folder 10: WJBC "Forums" by Violet Hamilton I

10.1 1975-1977

Folder 11: WJBC "Forums" by Violet Hamilton II

11.1 1978-1979

Folder 12: WJBC "Forums" by Violet Hamilton III

12.1 1980-1981

Folder 13: WJBC "Forums" by Violet Hamilton IV

13.1 1982-January 4, 1983

Folder 14: Articles Written by Violet Hamilton

- 14.1 McLean County Almanac piece on Tom Champion, a Normal tinsmith
- 14.2 McLean County Almanac piece on berry business in Normal
- 14.3 McLean County Almanac piece on Hendrix and Dawson families' arrivals in Blooming Grove.
- 14.4 McLean County Almanac piece on ISNU Civil War Unit, "The Schoolmaster's Regiment."
- 14.5 McLean County Almanac piece on ISNU first building and first graduation

- 14.6 Various "Foreign and Domestic Concerns"
- 14.7 "Hayden Whitewashes Left-wing."
- 14.8 "Right from the Horse's Mouth"

Folder 15: Newspaper Clippings I

- 15.1 Local political and social issues

Folder 16: Newspaper Clippings II

- 16.1 Illinois State University.

Folder 17: Newspaper Clippings III

- 17.1 Student groups

Folder 18: Newspaper Clippings IV

- 18.1 Federal issues

Folder 19: Newspaper Clippings V

- 19.1 William Wantling
- 19.2 Carrol Cox

Folder 20: Reports of Meetings and Attendees I

- 20.1 American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).
- 20.2 Concerned Student Union
- 20.3 Concerned Community Coalition
- 20.4 Friends of Cairo
- 20.5 Homophile Club
- 20.6 McLean County Economic Opportunity Corporation
- 20.7 Peace Action Committee

Folder 21: Reports of Meetings and Attendees II

- 21.1 Student Committee Against Repression (SCAR)
- 21.2 Students for Political Action
- 21.3 Illinois State University Veterans for Peace
- 21.4 "Women's liberation meetings"
- 21.5 ZPG Zero Population Growth

Folder 22: Dr. William Blake Files

- 22.1 Memo to Walter Trohan, from Violet Hamilton, about Dr. William Blake, undated, titled "A review of the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee hearing, including a brief resume of relevant background facts, additional sequential information and pertinent questions raised by the events."
- 22.2 Memo to State Representative Harbor H Hall, from Violet Hamilton, about Dr. William Blake, undated, titled "A review of the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee hearing, including a brief resume of relevant background facts, additional sequential information and pertinent questions raised by the events."
- 22.3 Memo to State Representative Webber Borchers, from Violet Hamilton, about Dr. William Blake, undated, titled "A review of the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee hearing, including a brief resume of relevant background facts, additional sequential information and pertinent questions raised by the events."
- 22.4 Memo to State Representative William F. Buckley, from Violet Hamilton, about Dr. William Blake, undated, titled "A review of the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee hearing, including a brief resume of relevant background facts, additional sequential information and pertinent questions raised by the events."
- 22.5 "Academic Freedom and the Christian Professor" by Violet Hamilton, undated
- 22.6 "My Philosophical Views" by William N. Blake (2 copies)
- 22.7 Photocopy of "Report of Faculty Evaluations, 1969, Department of Education"
- 22.8 Unsigned letter to Dr. William Blake, April 25, 1969, about political philosophy expounded in the classroom.
- 22.9 Memo to Hearing Committee, Re: Non-Reappointment of Professor William N. Blake, June 21, 1971 (2 copies, 1 copy lacking p.3)
- 22.10 Pages 22 and 23 transcribed from a recording of a conversation about Professor Blake, recorded July 18, 1971.
- 22.11 Memo "Summary of our Conversation on April 9, 1969," to William Blake from Leo Eastman, April 25, 1969
- 22.12 Statement by Dr. William N. Blake to The Board of Regents executive session, September 9, 1971 (2 copies)
- 22.13 "Bibliography of Studies in Creation, Evolution and Catastrophism," prepared by Dr. William N. Blake, March 1970.
- 22.14 "Karl Marx's Concept of Education," by Dr. William N. Blake.

Folder 23: Reports of Radio Programs

- 23.1 Reviews of Illinois State University FM Radio Station WGLT summer program series "Movin' Along," interviews conducted by Ralph Dring, 1971
- 23.2 Report on a Dialog radio program on Station WJBC, January 17, 1971, about PATH (Person Assistance Telephone Help).

Folder 24: Reports of Protests and Rally Attendees

- 24.1 Rally re. Bloomington-Normal Drug Raids and Arrests, March 30, 1971, held on April 1, 1971, 7:00 p.m. Lists speakers and attendees.
- 24.2 "Protest Coffeehouse," Tuesday, May 4, 1971. Program topics were Gorilla Theater and a panel of Viet Nam veterans. Lists participants and attendees.
- 24.3 Protest March and Demonstration Against the Appearance of U.S. Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird, Thursday, March 2, 1972. Lists identified attendees.

Folder 25: Reports of Speeches and Attendees

- 25.1 Free Convocation at Illinois Wesleyan University, September 21, 1970. Speaker Ti-Grace Atkinson, founding member of The Feminists and former president of the National Organization of Women. Lists identified attendees and commentary on the speech.
- 25.2 Speak Out on Grading System at Illinois State University, September 30, 1970. Lists identified attendees and commentary on the speeches.
- 25.3 Talks by Rev. Phillip Lawson, Kansas City, Missouri, at Memorial Center, Illinois Wesleyan University, November 18, 1970. Short summaries of his talks.
- 25.4 Talk by Rev. Charles Geary, Uptown Coalition, Chicago, at Illinois State University Student Union, December 1, 1970. Lists identified attendees and commentary on the speech.
- 25.5 Public Meeting Concerning Ralston-Purina Pollution, Sunnyside Community Center, Bloomington, April 15, 1971. Includes identified attendees and summary of discussion.
- 25.6 "Free School" Program and Organizing Meeting, April 19, 1971, Capen Auditorium, Illinois State University. Lists identified attendees and commentary on the discussion.
- 25.7 Moratorium Speak-Out-Teach-In, May 5, 1971, Illinois State University Amphitheater. Lists speakers and comments on content.
- 25.8 Talk by Sherman H. Skolnick, May 24, 1971, Hayden Auditorium, Illinois State University, sponsored by SANE. Lists identified attendees and commentary on the speech.
- 25.9 Talk by Dick Gregory, October 18, 1971, Horton Field House, Illinois State University. Lists a few attendees and comments on the program and a rap session following.
- 25.10 Speech by Ralph D. Abernathy, April 18, 1972, Capen Auditorium, Illinois State University. Lists identified attendees and summarizes the speech.
- 25.11 War protest speak-out following Abernathy speech, April 18, 1972, Illinois State University Amphitheater and Union. Lists identified attendees and commentary on the discussion.

Folder 26: Personal Profiles and List of Individuals Recently Observed

- 26.1 Profile of Arnold Milford Jochums and a "Corrected Report."
- 26.2 Profile of John R. Keller.
- 26.3 Profile of Charles E. Willer.
- 26.4 One page titled "Most Recent Known Dates the Following Individuals Were Observed." Lists dates and times and locations, if known for Lynden L. Bear, David Ashman, Earlon "Puddin" Sterling, Kenneth L. Klette, John R. Keller, John M. Carlock, Phillip W. Dick, William Kohlmeyer.

Folder 27: Normal Township Documents

- 27.1 Township Tax Levy Ordinance April 1, 1990-March 31, 1991.
- 27.2 Single Township Road District Budget and Appropriation Ordinance, April 1, 1988 to March 31, 1989.
- 27.3 Supervisor's Financial Statement/Settlement, Revenue Sharing Fund, March 31, 1988.
- 27.4 Highway Commissioner's Annual Report; Road and Bridge Fund, March 31, 1988.
- 27.5 Road District Treasurer's Annual Report, Road and Bridge Fund, March 31, 1989.

Folder 28: Normal Township Meeting Minutes and Agendas

- 28.1 Minutes of the Normal Township Annual Meeting, April 14, 1987
- 28.2 Normal Township Annual Town Meeting, April 12, 1988, Minutes
- 28.3 Normal Township Board Meeting, March 8, 1989, Minutes
- 28.4 Normal Township Annual Town Meeting, April 11, 1989, Agenda
- 28.5 Normal Township Board Meeting, May 10, 1989, Minutes
- 28.6 Normal Township Board Meeting, June 14, 1989, Agenda
- 28.7 Normal Township Board Meeting, June 14, 1989, Minutes
- 28.8 Normal Township Board Meeting, July 12, 1989, Minutes
- 28.9 Normal Township Board Meeting, July 12, 1989, Agenda
- 28.10 Normal Township Board Meeting, August 9, 1989, Agenda

Folder 29: Normal Township and the Illinois Open Meetings Act

- 29.1 Guide to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, Neil F. Hartigan, rev. 1-1-1988.
- 29.2 Letters to the Editor of the "Normalite," concerning possible Township Board violations of the Open Meeting Act
- 29.3 Letters to and from Charles Reynard, McLean County States Attorney, and Eric Ruud, Assistant State's Attorney concerning the Township Board's possible violation of the Open Meetings Act
- 29.4 Letter from George H. Miller, Executive Director, Township Officials of Illinois concerning the Township Board's possible violation of the Open Meetings Act.
- 29.5 Photocopy of a page likely from "Illinois Township Laws."

Folder 30: Newspaper Clippings, 1982-1989, regarding Normal Township

- 30.1 Clippings concerning various Normal Township issues.
- 30.2 Copy of "Illinois County and Township Official," journal, December 1988, folded open to p.4, concerning Township Caucuses.

Folder 31: Normal Township Elections

- 31.1 Printout of General Election Results March 15, 1988
- 31.2 Tally of write-in votes for Robert E. Prince, supervisor, and S. David Hughes, Trustee, by Normal precincts, undated
- 31.3 Campaign Information Sheet for Mary L. Calhoun, Candidate for Normal Township Supervisor in Election of April 4, 1989.

Folder 32: Republican Voters of Illinois

- 32.1 Various materials published by Republican Voters of Illinois during the 1960s.

Folder 33: Girl Scout Troop 142, Normal, Illinois

- 33.1 Memorabilia of troop activities ca. 1960-1963.

Folder 34: The Dennis Majerus Story

- 34.1 Booklet titled "The Dennis Majerus Story – a Study in Repression." Community Study Number 2, prepared by Community for Social Action, as a public service, published ca. 1969.

Folder 35: Hamilton Family Financial Records

- 35.1 A small assortment of Hamilton family bills, receipts and other financial documents during the period 1933 through 1971.

Folder 36: Business Documents

- 36.1 Insurance and licensing documents for Hamilton Wilbert Vault Company.

Folder 37: Business Receipts

- 37.1 Assorted business receipts for Hamilton Wilbert Vault Company transactions.

Folder 38: Business Employee Records

- 38.1 Various employee related records and receipts for Hamilton Wilbert Vault Company.

“Project 68, a Proposal to Responsible Republicans”

An unpublished typescript written by David B. Goldberg and Douglas L. Bailey, probably in 1964. Intended as a manual to counter the conservative influence in the party.

“The Cross and the Flag”

The “Official organ of the Christian Nationalist Crusade, a national political committee. Includes issues for November 1962, September and October 1962, and March through July, and September 1963.

3 Ledgers from the Hamilton Wilbert Vault Company

Ledgers used during 1954-1956 and 1951-64.