

**McLean County Museum of History**

**Merwin Collection**

Inventoried by  
Carol Straka  
Fall 2012

**Collection Information**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	One Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1874-2000
PROVENANCE:	Marjorie Merwin, Loring Merwin's widow, donated the items in folders 1-6 in 1998.
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:	Photos – People –Earhart Photos – People – Merwin

## Brief History

A Bloomington native, Loring C. Merwin served as publisher of the *Pantagraph* for over three decades. He worked at the family-owned newspaper that was founded by his great grandfather Jesse Fell.

Merwin attended Bloomington public schools and Choate School in Connecticut and earned a BS degree from Harvard University in 1928. He wed Marjorie Sward and the couple raised three children.

Merwin was involved in other media undertakings such as serving as board chair of Bloomington Broadcasting Corporation (with radio station WJBC, etc).

Other local involvements included fostering downtown improvement via helping create Bloomington Unlimited in 1969; chairing the city planning commission when the first comprehensive city plan was drawn; founding ParkLands Foundation to preserve open spaces for succeeding generations; and taking leadership roles in a variety of other civic, educational, and historical organizations as well as the Unitarian Church.

Merwin died in 1972 at age 68.

## Scope Note

Folders 1-6 of this collection include a selection of materials which his widow, Marjorie Merwin, donated. Newspaper clippings, tributes to ancestors, an encounter with Amelia Earhart and other items comprise her donation.

Folders 7- 11 include additional items, presumably donated by other parties but belonging to Loring Merwin. These include Jesse Fell's share certificate in the Congregational Society of Bloomington, correspondence to his son Miles, a few early *Pantagraph* materials, his 1939 speech on newspapers in civic promotion, and more

## Box and Folder Inventory

### Folder 1: General biographical

- 1.1.1 "Heart attack fatal to Loring Merwin, *Pantagraph*, 6 Sep 1972.
- 1.1.2 "Marjorie Merwin," obituary in *Pantagraph*, Nov 2000.
- 1.1.3 Letter to "Barbara" from unidentified concerning Ives and Merwin families.

### Folder 2: Fannie Fell's Will and Bequest

- 1.2.1 Copy of Will, 13 June 1927, 3 pp. Stipulates disposition of original manuscript of Autobiography of Abraham Lincoln, 1859.
- 1.2.2 "Lincoln Autobiography, Written Here, Called 'Third Most Valuable Document,'" *Pantagraph* reprint 18 Oct 1931, 2 copies.
- 1.2.3 "Lincoln Biography is Bequeathed: Miss Fell Wills it to Public," unknown source and undated.
- 1.2.4 "She Values Lincoln Autobiography Given Her Father by Fell, unknown source and undated.

### Folder 3: Amelia Earhart's 1936 Visit

- 1.3.1 Letter from Marjorie Merwin to Pat Hamilton, MCHS Archivist, plus photocopies of accompanying photo of Earhart and Merwins in 1936, May 1998.
- 1.3.2 Western Union telegram from Amelia Earhart to Loring C. Merwin at *Pantagraph*, advising anticipated arrival at Bloomington, 30 Mar 1936.
- 1.3.3 "A Round-the-World Flight Ends in the Pacific," *Life Magazine*, Vol. 3 No. 3, pp 21-25. Concerning Earhart's final flight.

### Folder 4: Newspaper Articles

Many are *Pantagraph* articles but not all are identified.

**Louis E. Davis**, son of H.O. Davis.

- 1.4.1 "Airmen Drop Weathers on Comrade's Grave: Unique Honor to Lieut. Davis," 16 May 1918. Concerning Louis E. Davis.
- 1.4.2 "Lieut. Louis E. Davis of Bloomington Is Killed," undated.
- 1.4.3 "H.O. Davis Gives \$ 10,000 to Legion," 1925, 2pp.  
**W.O. Davis**
- 1.4.4 "W.O. Davis," memorial tribute, undated.
- 1.4.5 Obituary, partial, undated.
- 1.4.6 "Death Calls Long-Time Proprietor of the *Pantagraph*," 23 May 1911.
- 1.4.7 "Funeral of W.O. Davis," 26 May 1911.  
**Jesse Fell and early Normal**
- 1.4.8 "Tells of Normal in an Early Day," 4 May 1922, 3pp. Recollections of B.H. McCann.
- 1.4.9 "Tells of the 'Making of a Republican,'" 2 May 1914, 3pp. Tribute to Jesse Fell by Frances M. Morehouse.
- 1.4.10 "How the Normal University Has Grown," undated.
- 1.4.11 "Honor Long Due to Jesse W. Fell," undated. Naming of city park.

- 1.4.12 “Why Normal School was Located Here,” undated.
  - 1.4.13 “President Cook on the Fell Memorial,” undated.
  - 1.4.14 “The Memorial to Jesse Fell, by President Felmley,” undated.
  - 1.4.15 “Hon. Joseph W. Fifer’s Reminiscences,” 15 May 1918.
  - 1.4.16 “Lodge Honors Man Whose Name It Bears,” 18 Feb 1913. Pythians lodge.
  - 1.4.17 “The Jesse W. Fell Memorial Gateway,” undated.
  - 1.4.18 “Jesse W. Fell and Normal Campus,” undated.
- Abraham Lincoln***
- 1.4.19 “Local Facts in Lincoln Story,” undated, 2pp. Ida Tarbell on “Money Sense” of Lincoln.
  - 1.4.20 “Heard Famous ‘Lost Speech’ at Major’s Hall, May 29, 1856.” 30 Jan 1923, 2pp. John A. Fulwiller’s recollections.
  - 1.4.21 “Death of Lincoln’s Assassin Recalled,” undated. George H. Harris recollection.
- Buffy Ives***
- 1.4.22 Assorted clippings regarding Elizabeth “Buffy” Ives.

**Folder 5: Miscellaneous**

- 1.5.1 Program for “A Dinner Commemorating the Opening of the David Davis Mansion to the Public,” 10 Feb 1961.
- 1.5.2 Brochure: “The David Davis Mansion,” circa 1960s.
- 1.5.3 Letter of the Editor from John F. Cook, 31 Apr 1914, 6 pp. Tribute to Jesse Fell.
- 1.5.4 “Some of the Influences Which Led to the Founding of the Normal University,” by J.H. Burnham, delivered at the Founder Day banquet, 18 Feb 1909, 15 pp.
- 1.5.5 “In Memory of Eliza B. Davis,” obituary and tributes to Mrs. Wm. O. Davis, 1900
- 1.5.6 “Memorial on Jesse W. Fell,” from *Transactions of the McLean County Historical Society, Vol. I*, 1899, p 338-351.
- 1.5.7 “Speech Delivered by Gen. Patton Before Invasion,” with accompanying note from Marjorie Merwin.
- 1.5.8 “Talk to ParkLands Annual Meeting,” by Mark Wyman, 8 Oct. 2000, 5pp.
- 1.5.9 “The Mackinaw: Ensuring Citizens Have A Voice.” 10 pp booklet from the Mackinaw River Partnership, undated.
- 1.5.10 1998 gift agreement with Marjorie S. Merwin, April 1997 correspondence with donor, etc.

**Folder 6: Russian Bonds**

Four letters from A.B. Leach & Co. Inc., a Chicago investment securities firm, to L.B. Merwin of Pasadena, CA, concerning Merwin’s purchase of Russian government bonds, Nov 1920-May 1921.  
 Plus account cards and 30 Oct 1919 typed note on the changed circumstances. And, Russian government 5 ½% short-term War Loan issued in 1916 for 2,000,000,000 roubles plus accompany bond coupons.

### **Folder 7: Family Memorabilia**

- 1.7.1 Share certificate in Free Congregational Society of Bloomington for Jesse W. Fell, 7 Feb 1874. Includes Fell's signature. Also enclosed, a note about certificate number 1, also owned by Jesse Fell in 1870, and placed into the cornerstone of Unitarian Church Building by Loring C. Merwin 17 January 1960.
- 1.7.2 High School pass for Jessie David, 9 November 1886 at Normal.
- 1.7.3 Letter from Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, about upcoming visit by Loring C. Merwin, 8 August 1953.
- 1.7.4 *Daily Pantagraph* memo from "Dad (LCM)" to MLM, 3 Feb 1960 about grandfather Merwin and Owen Reeves.
- 1.7.5 Typed memo from Loring C. Merwin to son Miles L. Merwin, 5 Feb 1962, about preserving three old newspapers involving early history of Bloomington-Normal and *Pantagraph*. 3 sheets.

### **Folder 8: *Pantagraph***

- 1.8.1 Broadside *Weekly Pantagraph* offer for one-year advance subscription with bonus of another newspaper, c.1879
- 1.8.2 Invitation to annual banquet, at Oberkoetter's Hall in Bloomington, 23 Dec 1882. Includes list of employees.
- 1.8.3 Receipt for H Y Capen for one month subscription to *Daily Pantagraph*, Dec 1890. Verso includes ad for Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Co.
- 1.8.4 Blank bank check or mock up thereof drawn on People's Bank.
- 1.8.5 Envelope presumably for classified ad payment to *Daily Pantagraph*.
- 1.8.6 Text for Loring Merwin talk to Advertising & Selling Club luncheon, 19 Jun 1939 at the Pere Marquette Hotel, Peoria. 10pp typescript photocopy with copy of brief new article on that. Talk focused on the role of newspaper in civic promotion.

### **Folder 9: Miscellaneous U.S. History**

- 1.9.1 Broadside for "A Correct History of the John Brown Invasion at Harper's Ferry, W.V." by the late Capt John H. Zittle, nd.
- 1.9.2 Program booklet for the Centennial of Lincoln's Lost Speech, 29 May 1956. Autographed by several participants, including Loring Merwin who "unveiled."
- 1.9.3 Binder from Illinois State Historical Society with facsimile of Gettysburg Address, 15 Sep 1965.

### **Folder 10: Autopoint Pencil Company**

- 1.10.1 Share certificates for Autopoint Pencil Company owned by L.B. Merwin, 8 Jul 1920. Some shares were purchased by property and others by cash.