

McLean County Museum of History

Orendorff Family Collection

Processed by
Rochelle Gridley
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1848-1993
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 Orendorff Collection See also Orendorff, Ella Collection See also Civil War Era Correspondence Collection for letters to J.B. Orendorff

Brief History

The Orendorff family was among the first settlers in McLean County, when brothers William and Thomas Orendorff traveled to Blooming Grove in 1823 from Sangamon County. The Orendorffs are credited with naming Blooming Grove, establishing farms and families in McLean County, and holding massive family reunions beginning in the 1880s.

Scope

The collection contains documents dating from as early as 1848, a deed for school property from William and Malinda Orendorff and until 1984, when an Orendorff family reunion took place in McLean County. The collection contains McLean County histories written by Orendorff family members, correspondence, and family reunion records.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: General

- 1.1 Booklet: "The American Orendorff Family," organizing and requesting genealogical information from members of the family, 1886.
- 1.2 Genealogical notes of Orendorff Family, 3 pp.MS & 3pp typed transcript, nd.
- 1.3 Resolution by McLean County Historical Society on death of John L. Orendorff, 1910.
- 1.4 Deed giving real estate for public school from Thomas and Malinda Orendorff, 29 Dec 1848. For Walker School District in Bloomington Township.
- 1.5 Business card for Elsie N. Orendorff, "Scientific Dressmaking" in downtown Bloomington, circa 1900. Plus brief biographical notes on Elsie (1882-1941)
- 1.6 "House, deserted now, has history," Aaron Orendorff home, Hopedale Township, *Pantagraph*, 7 May 1927.

Folder 2: John Lewis Orendorff

- 2.1 Biography by William A. Orendorff of his father John Lewis Orendorff, first white child born in McLean County, 1925. 7pp typescript.

Folder 3: Miscellaneous genealogical information

- 3.1 Photocopies of baby book for John Warren Orendorff, 4pp, 1943.
- 3.2 Ellen Orendorff obituary, Anniversary announcement for Mr. and Mrs. Robert Orendorff and photos of Thomas Corwin Orendorff, Cheryl Cumming Orendorff and John Warren Orendorff.
- 3.3 Seven-page family tree for John Warren Orendorff, 1993.

Folder 4: Family reunions

- 4.1 Bound speeches from 1886 speeches at reunion, 12 – 14 Oct 1886.
- 4.2 Program for 1984 Reunion, 11- 12 Aug 1984. 2 copies.

Folder 5: History of Early Camp Meetings by J.B. Orendorff

- 5.1 22 pp manuscript, nd.
- 5.2 Typed transcriptions, 2 editions. 6-7 pp each.
- 5.3 Handwritten notes by Milo Custer related to this manuscript, nd.

Folder 6: Biographical sketch of Omen and Zena Olney, by J.B. Orendorff

- 6.1 12 pp manuscript, nd.
- 6.2 Typed transcription, 10pp.

Folder 7: Biographical sketch of William Walker, by J.B. Orendorff

- 7.1 8 pp typescript, nd.
- 7.2 Photocopy of marriage license record, March 1854.

Folder 8: Biographical sketch of Elijah Walden, by J.B. Orendorff

- 8.1 7 pp manuscript, nd.
- 8.2 Typed transcription, 6pp.

Folder 9: Biographical sketch of Major Seth Baker, by J.B. Orendorff

- 9.1 15 pp manuscript, nd.
- 9.2 Typed transcription, 5pp.

Folder 10: Correspondence

- 10.1 Three empty envelopes.
- 10.2 Letter from William Orendorff (Canton, IL) to John B. Orendorff, 6 Jan 1852, asking for news of relations in California, prayer meetings fearful of “world coming to an end,” and sad news from the capitol of our union.
- 10.3 Letter from Lizzie C. Maris (Murray Co., Georgia) to cousins John and Nancy, 14 Feb 1858, subjects: weather, farming, riding a mule and falling off, church, finding a husband for Lizzie and family news.
- 10.4 Letter from John L. McCain (Forest Hill, CA) to J. B. Orendorff, 10 Nov 1859, regarding working conditions in California and Washington Territory and stagecoach robbery attempt.
- 10.5 Letter from William McCain (Forest Hill, CA) to J.B. Orendorff, sister, and nephew, 16 Feb 1862, re raising prices for food stuffs due to war and flooding, new mines in Oregon, “Forget me not were (sic) er (sic) you be, ** ev’ry day I think of thee.” Plus envelope.