

# McLean County Museum of History

## Cecil Burleigh Collection

Processed by  
Mary Alice Wills  
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### Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	2 Boxes
COLLECTION DATES:	1885 - 1980
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:	

## Brief History

Cecil Burleigh was born April 17, 1885 in Wyoming, New York. The family moved to Omaha, Nebraska, where at the age of 6 he showed a talent for music and was encouraged to play the violin. By the time the family moved to Bloomington, he had become proficient and while in high school composed incidental music. In his mid-teens in the early 1900s, he was called “the boy wonder of Bloomington, Ill.” At 17, Burleigh was sent to study in Berlin, Germany. In 1905, back in the states, he studied at the Chicago Music College. He later taught at the Denver Institute of Music, Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa, as well as the University of Montana.

By 1919 he had published several works and went to New York where he played selections of his compositions on a program that included famous actors, singers and musicians of the day. In 1940 he married Jessie Meredith Jennings of Madison, Wisconsin. After two years as a concert artist he came to the University of Wisconsin at Madison where he retired in 1955 after 34 years as music professor. After retiring, he took up painting. Cecil Burleigh, Professor Emeritus of the University of Wisconsin and “internationally known musician,” died on July 29, 1980.

## Scope

This collection contains miscellaneous excerpts from newspapers, trade magazines, and letters, as well as Burleigh’s comments. His achievements in music for the years 1894 through 1906 are represented in these 6 scrapbooks as well as places and events he found of interest. The scrapbooks are divided as follows: Scrapbook 1, 1894 – 1897; Scrapbook 2, 1898-1900; Scrapbook 3, 1901-1902; Scrapbook 4, January 1903 – September 1903; Scrapbook 5, October 1903 - March 1905; and Scrapbook 6 April 1905 – September 1906.

## Box and Folder Inventory

### Box 1

#### Folder 1: Collection list, Comments on Music, Obit, and Miscellaneous

- 1.1.1. Typed sheet listing items of 2 boxes in Burleigh Collection, 2 copies
- 1.1.2. Cecil Burleigh: list in chronological order, of Burleigh musical progression from schools attended through those he served as instructor, recitals, soloist, orchestral performances, awards, society memberships, music reference books, and recordings, 3 pages.
- 1.1.3. “Works In Modern Idiom (MSS) with Copyright Numbers in Library of Congress,” 14 compositions listed ranging from voice, two pianos, violin and piano, to small orchestra, 2 pages.
- 1.1.4. “Excerpts from article in ETUDE, April, 1943” Burleigh expresses his philosophy of music, American and foreign and the three classes of composition. Burleigh comments on

transition from first high school compositions to later after returning from Europe, 2 pages.

- 1.1.5. "Here's a man who is rather important," by Chuck Martin, w/photo, *The State Journal*, (Wisconsin), July 29, 1980, Article briefly outlines Burleigh's life and praises his music accomplishments, 2 pages
- 1.1.6. Obit: "Cecil Burleigh," Professor Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin, composer, and violinist passed away Monday, July 28, 1980, Obit, Madison, Wisconsin, no newspaper listed, no date.
- 1.1.7. Letter to Mrs. Charles Funk from Jessica Burleigh, dated February 7, 1982, w/envelope, reminiscing about her life with Burleigh.
- 1.1.8. FAX cover and 4 pages from Alliance Library Systems, Nov. 21 – 97, Subject: Cecil Burleigh, information not legible
- 1.1.9. Alliance Library System, Dec.01-97, Burleigh information, 1 page.
- 1.1.10. Comments from Burleigh on his life and music, 6 pages.
- 1.1.11. Copy from: "The New Grand Dictionary of American Music," summary of Burleigh's life including Works and Bibliography

### **Scrapbook 1: 1894 – 1897**

**1894** – Black and white photo of house where Burleigh was born, photos – newspaper: Troop B Cavalry Band, Alton Station during American Union Rail Union strike, Beck's Undertaker Parlor, small photo of John A. Beck, class photo of School 2 (Edwards).

**1895** – Photos – newspaper: corner Main and Washington, Frank E. Siebert Variety Store, standpipe built 1875 for city water, Bloomington drum corps on Labor Day, 9 houses, sidewalks and 2 playground sites, 8 views of office bldg., Turner Hall (Eagles Hall), Major's Hall – sketch before removal of 3rd story, Fred Ashton's studio on N. Main, IWU recital program, 1895 "Will be Gala Entertainment," typed list of social events of the year, sports, advertisements, 3 pages.

**1896** - Continuation of events under the New Year: January through October various events held at the Coliseum, Grand Opera House, Wesleyan campus, and Jefferson School, newspaper ads and articles, 6 pages. Photos: IWU bldgs., 15 of houses in old east central Bloomington, Lewis E. Burleigh (father), German Lutheran Church (1902), unidentified woman in rocking chair, streets, alleys, restaurants, Grand Opera Bldg., 4 x 6 of Mr. Hersey, Burleigh's violin teacher, 4 x 6 1/2 Burleigh at young age w/ violin.

**1897**- *Pantagraph*, "College of Music Commencement." June 17, 1897, newspaper article. Entries continue for sport and concert events of the year, black and white photos of 25 houses, 1 interior, 1 City Hall, newspaper photos of City Hall, Post Office, 3 photos of Second Pres., 2 newspaper photos of Old Main, 4 IWU Recital Programs.

### **Scrapbook 2: 1898 – 1900**

**1898** – 5 IWU College of Music programs, "The Junior Carnival," *Pantagraph*, June 13 1898, 5 *Pantagraph* photos, Amateur Musical Club Programme, Oct. 29, Dec. 8, Cecil Burleigh photo 8 1/2 x 3 1/2, newspaper photo of men leaving for Spanish War.

**1899** – 3 IWU Music Programs, “John L. Sullivan” newspaper ad, “Graduates’ recital at Amie Chapel,” *Pantagraph*, photo: Rodgers Shoe Store – 106 N. Main St., IWU College of Music commencement exercises, June, 1899, 4 newspaper columns covering graduation. 2 photos of football teams, Oct. 3 program of prose and verse readings, typed pages of sporting events, IWU music program for November 2, newspaper article about Normal football, newspaper photo of ISNU football, typed pages of football.

**1900** - Season of 1899-1900 IWU College of Music glossy brochure w/ instructors, biographies and photos, 42 pages. 7 x 10 photo of trolley car, newspaper photo of Main St., 4 IWU College of music program, Feb. Mar. Jun., typed *Pantagraph* account of commencement at IWU, 6 newspaper photos. Typed community events comments, 4 photos, musical recital, November 3, 3 photos. “Travelers Protective Association,” Constitution and By-Laws pamphlet.

### **Scrapbook 3: 1901 – 1902**

**1901** – Photo Clara Burleigh (sister), Clara’s BHS admission slip, U.S. Post Office change of address card, 5 photos, 6 ½ x 8 ½ picture of football team. “The 169th Recital,” *Pantagraph*, comments on Nye books, house photo, 5 house photos, newspaper photo, 8 house photos. Typed community events, IWU College of Music graduation recitals, 4 ¼ x 7 ¼ photo, Bloomington Public Schools graduating exercises 2 pages, IWU College of Music annual commencement, “Graduation Recital,” *Pantagraph*, graduation invitation, “Miller’s Purchase becomes Park,” *Pantagraph*. Typed commencement comments, 3 *Pantagraph* columns, 2 Illinois Hotel photos. Typed page community events, 3 photos. 11 photos house and bldg., account of baseball game. “Vintage Hideaway,” *Pantagraph* photo. 5 ISNU *Pantagraph* photos.

**1902** - Typed *Aegis* (BHS) of local, sports 1½ pages. “Entertainment and Social” program, typed advertisements ½ page. 2 Amateur Musical Club programs, typed pages about football. Letter to Cecil Burleigh from Rudolph Wurlitzer Co., Oct. 11. Typed pages of local events, newspaper articles of concerts, excerpts of letters. 20 house photos, typed pages of football, 2 house photos, 2 recital programs. Typed personals, page 3 photos, IWU Amie Chapel music program, Typed local and personal, advertisements w/3 photos, and *Pantagraph* article, “The Drummers Entertain.” IWU music recital program. Newspaper article “Successful Concert,” Burleigh w/photo, literary and musical program, photo. “Successful Concert,” IWU Recital, newspaper photo, 10 house, bldg., interior photos, *Pantagraph*, “Quit Grade Schools,” IWU commencement exercises, *Pantagraph*, “Second Commencement Recital,” Typed community events, advertisements, IWU program, photo.

### **Box 2**

### **Scrapbook 4: 1903 to September**

**1903** – B.H.S. *Aegis*, program, 4 photos, 2 *Pantagraph* photos, typed *Pantagraph* article, *Pantagraph* article “Program Complete for Women’s Club Concert,” picture, newspaper photo, Burleigh concert in Toledo – 3 items, B.H.S. *Aegis* typed, typed Musical Festival program, “Boy Has Musical Talent,” newspaper article w/photo. 2 IWU music programs, newspaper article

“College of Music,” “The Violinist” L. E. Hersey, w/photo, IWU Commencement Program, newspaper, Burleigh letter of recommendation, newspaper articles “Burleigh to Leave for Leipsic.” “Engine No. 999,” w/photo, 10 color travel photos, hotel, 3 b/w, Burleigh photo, Trans-Atlantic Cablegram, Sept. 20, 1903, newspaper “Cecil Burleigh Writes From Berlin,”

### **Scrapbook 5: Oct. 1903 to Mar. 1905**

**1903** – 3 ½ x 5 ½ color photo of Jorchim, violin Master, 2 photos, 3 x 5 ½ photo Max Grunberg, 2 business cards, 12 color postcards, telegraph from Berlin. 3 ½ x 5 photo (2 sided) 2 tax stamps, 8 photos, torn postcard, 6 miscellaneous German theater and concert tickets, photo

### **Scrapbook 6: April 1905 to Sept. 1906**

**1905** – 2 *Pantagraph* articles w/Burleigh photos, 6 *Pantagraph* articles, Burleigh’s sister Clara photo, 3 houses, 3 concert programs, 8 houses, 2 Clark Winklepech programs, photo Winklepech, Burleigh and others, typed account of 1901, 02, 03 football games, house photo, 4 *Pantagraph* notices, 1904 football game, 3 music programs, Cerulean Springs Hotel Co. ad., photo of concert poster, Burleigh photo, 2 performance advertisements, *Hopkinsville Kentuckian*, Sept 1, 1906, notice of Burleigh performance, 2 programs, 2 photos of Chicago Cubs baseball players.