

McLean County Museum of History

**J. Harwood Evans Collection**

Inventoried by  
Carol Straka  
Summer 2010

**Collection Information**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	One Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1794-1976
PROVENANCE:	Gift from Harwood's nephew Richard V. Evans Jr. in 2010
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 Photograph Collection – People – Evans; Architecture Bloomington Center St. N. 500 block.

## **Brief History**

John Harwood Evans (1899-1976) was born in McLean County and grew up in Bloomington. He was dubbed “Harwood” to distinguish him from other “Johns” in the family. He was the son of Frederick Evans and grandson of John W. Evans. Born of Welsh immigrants, John W. Evans came to Bloomington in 1855 and began a woodworking business that eventually became one of the largest construction firms in Illinois. Harwood’s mother, Katherine Harwood Evans, was the daughter of an affluent early hardware store owner in Bloomington.

Harwood’s mother died when he was three years old. Two maiden aunts named Cora and Susan Evans effectively reared Harwood and his younger brother Dick. Harwood graduated from the University of Illinois in agriculture in 1923; taught biology in Janesville, WI; married fellow teacher Dorothy Kropf in 1927; and earned a masters in entomology at University of Illinois in 1931. He served as Dean of Boys at Oshkosh (WI) High School and as principal from 1946-56, returning to teaching until he retired. He combined his love of nature and education in serving as head of the Culver (IN) Military Academy for many summers. Harwood actively served the community leading Boys Scouts and Campfire Girls as well as in his Congregational church and other community organizations.

Additional family history is documented in the 2010 book, *The John Watkin Evans Family of Bloomington, Illinois* available in the Museum Library Stacks.

## **Scope Note**

This collection includes items Harwood and his daughter Susan collected and preserved such as family letters from 1860-1948; biographies of some of the family members; newspaper clippings about Harwood’s life; wills and vital records from his ancestors, bills from the Evans family construction business, etc

## Folder Inventory

### Folder 1: J. Harwood Evans

- 1.1.1 "Entomologist Scans Role of Ambush Bug Among Other Insects," *Pantagraph*, 17 May 1931.
- 1.1.2 Photo of out of town relatives visiting home of Cora/Susan/Will Evans in Bloomington, *Pantagraph*, 1937.
- 1.1.3 "Fell on Leave, Evans is Acting Principal at OHS," *Oshkosh (Wis) Daily Northwestern*, undated.
- 1.1.4 "Evans Visits Own Exhibit at Smithsonian," newspaper unknown, hand-dated 1 March 1948.
- 1.1.5 "Mrs. Evans, Prominent in City, Succumbs," newspaper unknown, undated.
- 1.1.6 "Commandant Greets Woodcrafters, Cubs," paper unknown and undated, greetings from J. Harwood Evans.
- 1.1.7 "Evans Accepts Janesville Job," *Oshkosh (Wis) Daily Northwestern*, 12 April 1956
- 1.1.8 "J.H. Evans Resignation Means Severe Loss to Oshkosh Educational System," *Oshkosh (Wis) Northwestern*, 16 April 1956.
- 1.1.9 "This is Your Life --- J. Harwood Evans," *The Index* of Oshkosh High School, 25 May 1956. Entire 4 pp edition enclosed.
- 1.1.10 "JHS Biology Teacher Spots First Cattle Egret Ever Seen in State," *Janesville Gazette*, 26 April 1960.
- 1.1.11 Three obituaries: "Former Oshkosh High Principal Dies at 77," "Retired Teacher J.H. Evans Dies," and "J Harwood Evans" from unspecified newspapers, undated.
- 1.1.12 "The Pedigree of John Harwood Evans," writer unknown, undated. Genealogy chart, 2 copies.

### Folder 2: Other Biographies

- 1.2.1 Biography of John W. Evans, "dictated by Cora E. Evans" (his daughter), 5 pp. This verbiage appears in the *Encyclopaedia of Biography of Illinois Vol III* published in 1902.
- 1.2.2 Photocopy of letter from Major Rolla W. Evans of Bloomington to Cora Evans, undated, concerning John W. Evans early days in Bloomington and development of his business, 3 pp.
- 1.2.3 Memorial biography of John W. Evans, writer unknown, 3 pp.
- 1.2.4 Obituary for John W. Evans, undated, *American Lumberman*.
- 1.2.5 Brief obituary for John W. Evans, *Chicago Tribune*, 13 August 1899.

### Folder 3: Intra-family correspondence (1860-1949)

- 1.3.1 From John W. Evans to Mattie (Martha) Williams, 20 May 1860, concerning his delayed arrival in Ebensburg, PA, and expected time to call upon Mattie. This was written four days before they married.
- 1.3.2 From John W. Evans to his daughter Susan at Wilson College, 7 June

- 1893, concerning her upcoming college commencement and his visit to same, includes envelope.
- 1.3.3 From John W. Evans to his son R.W. Evans in Bloomington, discussing the Susan's just completed commencement exercises and matters back home, 15 June 1893.
- 1.3.4 From Susan Evans at Wilson College to her sister Cora in Bloomington, 8 June 1893, thanking her for the dresses she sent and Susan's upcoming commencement, 2 sheets.
- 1.3.5 From Susan Evans to her father John W. Evans in Bloomington, 8 June 1893, concerning travel recommendations for his trip to Wilson College.
- 1.3.6 From J. Harwood Evans in Elizabeth, IL, to his father Fred R. Evans in Bloomington, 29 August 1921, concerning his farming ambitions and work at the Farm Bureau that summer, on Farm Bureau stationery with envelope.
- 1.3.7 From Fred Evans in Bloomington to his son/daughter-in-law M/M J. Harwood Evans in Madison WI, 11 August 1932, concerning news from home and the anticipated birth of a child, on City Hall stationery with envelope.
- 1.3.8 From Cora E. Evans to her nephew & wife, Richard and Myrtle Evans, 28 January 1934, concerning family health matters and Cora's birthday.
- 1.3.9 From Susan M. Evans to her nephew Harwood Evans & family, 27 June 1947, concerning family matters including their search for a house, original plus photocopy.
- 1.3.10 From Susan M. Evans to her nephew Harwood Evans and family, 21 April 1947, concerning their housing search, Bill's birthday gift, donating their mother's dresses to the Illinois State Normal University Museum, etc.; original plus photocopy.
- 1.3.11 From Susan M. Evans to her nephew Harwood Evans in Oshkosh WI, 4 May 1947, concerning their home purchase and Harwood's promotion to principal.
- 1.3.12 From Cora E. Evans to nephew Harwood Evans and family, 11 February 1948, concerning Cora's birthday, Harwood's trip to DC and past travels.
- 1.3.13 From Cora E. Evans to nephew Harwood Evans and family, 4 March 1948, describing the dresses of her mother's which were donated to the Illinois State Normal University Museum.
- 1.3.14 From Cora E. Evans to nephew Harwood Evans, 4 March 1948, concerning Harwood's visit to Philadelphia and past travels there.
- 1.3.15 From Cora E. Evans to nephew Harwood, undated, concerning applying for an old age pension.
- 1.3.16 From Cora E. Evans to nephew Harwood Evans, 8 March 1950, concerning her decision to apply for an old age pension.
- 1.3.17 Cora E. Evans to nephew Harwood Evans and family in Oshkosh WI, 25 Nov 1949, concerning family history, 2 sheets plus envelope.

**Folder 4: Wills, Vital Records, etc.**

- 1.4.1 Photocopy of Registration Roll of Cemais Parish in Montgomery County identifying the January 1794 baptism of Margaret Jones; photocopy of description/photos of St. Tydecho's Church in Cemais; map of Craig Fawr Farm in Cemmes Parish, 6 pp/3 sheets.
- 1.4.2 Photocopy of transcription of statement of naturalization for John Evans in Cambria County, PA, 6 October 1823.
- 1.4.3 Photocopy of will of John Evans of Cambria County, PA, 1 October 1838.
- 1.4.4 Photocopy of sworn statement of Morris D. Jones witness of John Evans signing his will, 24 July 1847.
- 1.4.5 Photocopy of itemized list of the property of John Evans sold at sale with prices and buyers, 3 pp.
- 1.4.6 Photocopy of appointment of executors Jane and Isaac Evans, 2 April 1847.
- 1.4.7 Photocopy of Administrator Isaac Evans' account of John Evans estate, 30 Nov 1848, 2 pp.
- 1.4.8 Photocopy of first and final account of administrator C. T. Roberts on the estate of John Evans (Smith), 30 January 1889, 5 pp/3 sheets.
- 1.4.9 Photocopies of documents filed with McLean County Court related to the estate of John W. Evans including appointment of administrator John F. Evans, paid bank notes, request to keep estate open, etc. from 1899 to 1907, 7 pp.
- 1.4.10 Correspondence from attorney Andrew M. Linn of Washington, PA, to Cora E. Evans, 9 July 1942, concerning Cora's inheritance from her friend Mary D. McClane, 2 pp x 2 copies.
- 1.4.11 Certified copy of McLean County birth certificate of Richard Vaughn Evans (born 1903), issued 26 March 1973.

**Folder 5: Land Transactions**

- 1.5.1 Agreement by H.I. Roberts, J.W. Evans, and A.R. Jones on equal ownership of a 200 acres parcel of land in Johnson County, Iowa, 5 Jan 1858, original and photocopy.
- 1.5.2 Certificate 11,171 issued by US General Land Office to Samuel Waters of Somerset County, PA, for 160 acres in the Iowa district, 1 May 1855, original and photocopy.
- 1.5.3 Quit Claim Deed conveying 2 lots in the Allin, Gridley & Pricketts Addition of Bloomington from James H. Robinson and his wife Latricia M. Robinson to Sanford R. Robinson, all of McLean County, for \$ 500, 20 Feb 1865, includes revenue stamp.
- 1.5.4 Warranty deed conveying 12 lots in Painters 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition of Bloomington from Charles S. Roe to Asa H. Moore, all of McLean County, for \$2500. 3 Nov 1869. Includes revenue stamp.
- 1.5.5 Warranty Deed conveying a lot in Painters Addition of Bloomington from Reuben D. Davis and his wife Eliza Davis to Magdalena Hartmann, all of

- McLean County, 3 August 1870. Includes revenue stamps.
- 1.5.6 Mortgage bond for \$1000 at 10% indebting James W. Hayes and John W. Evans to Gilbert & Gay of West Winsted, Conn, 10 Oct 1872. Secured by deed of trust between Hayes & his wife and Evans & his wife and Hudson Burr, Trustee.
- 1.5.7 Warranty deed conveying a 160 acre parcel in Iowa from John W & Martha Evans to Ann Jones, 7 Aug 1869 (description matches parcel in 1.5.2 above), original with revenue stamps and photocopy.
- 1.5.8 Photocopy of deed conveying 5 acre parcel near Ebensburg, PA, from John W. Evans, Morris J Evans and wife Ann, Mary James, Jennie A.E. Davis and husband Lemuel Davis to C.T. Roberts of Ebensburg, PA, May 1887.
- 1.5.9 Note regarding "Kansas Land" written on back of envelope addressed to J.W. Evans & Sons Co and postmarked 1895.

**Folder 6: Invoices and receipts: personal**

- 1.6.1 Invoice from Kirkendall, Pierpont & Co. to J.W. Evans for curtains, 28 July 1860.
- 1.6.2 Invoice from Dr. Nelson to Mr. Evans for professional attendance on Mrs. Evans in her confinement, 31 Dec 1861, partial page on lined paper with embossed decorative seal.
- 1.6.3 Itemized list of expenses to construct J.W. Evans' home at 105 W. Chestnut, 1866, 4 pp.
- 1.6.4 Certificate from Normal Academy of Music, Bloomington, entitling holder J.W. Evans to tuition in classes for \$ 60, 17 July 1863.
- 1.6.5 Invoice & receipt from Allen & Mackey to J.W. Evans for carpeting, etc, 23 May 1866. *Presumed to be related to JWEvans' own house but not definitive.*
- 1.6.6 Account itemization and receipts to Mrs. Evans from M. Marble for household furniture, Feb 1868 to Oct 1868.
- 1.6.7 Itemized invoice for Fred R. Evans funeral from John A Beck Company Funeral Home, 27 Oct 1933.
- 1.6.8 Itemized invoice and receipt for Fred R. Evans funeral from John A. Beck Company Funeral Service, 30 October 1933.
- 1.6.9 M. Walsh & Sons statement of account and request for payment of remaining balance on Fred Evans marker, 12 Nov 1936 plus cancelled check for \$22 to M. Walsh & Sons dated 23 Nov 1934.

**Folder 7: Invoices and receipts: business**

- 1.7.1 Receipt from Illinois Mutual Fire Insurance Company for Hayes & Evans, covering 6 Sept 1863-6 Sept 1864.
- 1.7.2 Receipt from L.P. Sanger & Son to J.W. Evans for stone sills, caps, etc., 7 July 1865.
- 1.7.3 Receipt from Chadwick & Tyler to Hayes & Evans for rods and related hardware, 9 Sept 1865.

- 1.7.4 Receipt from Chadwick & Tyler to Hayes & Evans for \$32 on account, 7 Oct 1865.
- 1.7.5 Receipt from Murphy & Trotter to John Evans for graining, 21 Dec 1865.
- 1.7.6 Postcard from L.P. Thomas of Bloomington to Rockford Insurance Co, 19 Aug 1889, concerning confirming a reinsurance policy.
- 1.7.7 Western Union Telegram from Daniel Beech, Cashier, in Pittsburg, PA to National State Bank in Bloomington, 1 April 1890, concerning the monetary worth of Robert Jackson.
- 1.7.8 Itemized receipt from Plumb & Buffham to J.W. Evans for interior painting, 19 June 1869.
- 1.7.9 Empty envelope from Merchants & Manufacturers Mutual Fire Assoc addressed to J.W. Evans and Sons, postmarked 15 Apr 1891.
- 1.7.10 Western Union Telegram from J.F. Evans at Bloomington to F.B. Cox Sec'y in Los Angeles, CA, concerning assessment stock of flour.
- 1.7.11 Correspondence from J.F. Evans to C.F. Wiehe, Trustee of Care Edward Hines Lumber Co in Chicago, 30 June 1914, concerning financial arrangements to wind up the Evans company, 4 pp, ?? copy and photocopy.

**Folder 8: Miscellaneous**

- 1.8.1 Calling card for Mrs. J.W. Evans. Martha "Mattie" Williams married John W. Evans in 1860 and died in 1879.
- 1.8.2 Political campaign card for Fred R. Evans, candidate for commissioner (of City of Bloomington) in primary election.
- 1.8.3 Weekly program for First Baptist Church, Bloomington, 16 June 1912, listing services, organizations, officers, notices, and an obituary for Dan Bogue Harwood (J. Harwood Evans' maternal grandfather)
- 1.8.4 Patent deed in which Cyrus Frank conveys his half interest in a patent for improvements in combined carpet and weather strip (patent 364,462) to John W. Evans, 14 February, 1891, original plus photocopy.