

McLean County Museum of History

James S. Ewing Speeches Collection

Processed by
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1879-1882
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

James S. Ewing (1835- 1918) was born in what is today Woodford County. He came to Bloomington as a boy in 1840 and lived here nearly all the balance of his life. He graduated Center College in Kentucky and in 1859 was admitted to practice as an attorney in Illinois. In 1869, he became a law partner with A.E. Stevenson (later known as Adlai E. Stevenson I).

A pronounced Democrat, he never sought elected office though he was a confidant and advisor to Vice President A. E. Stevenson. President Grover Cleveland appointed him ambassador to Belgium (1893-97).

Ewing wed Katherine Spencer and reared four children, including locals Spencer and Davis Ewing.

Scope

The collection includes three bound books with handwritten speeches and lectures of James Ewing, plus his extensive minutes of an “irregular” meeting of the “Club.”

Inventory

Volume I:

Ewing’s argument for plaintiff in Fanny L. Cavarly vs. James H. Campfield for \$50,000 damages, LaSalle County, 4 Feb 1882.

Volume II:

- Fourth of July Oration, 4 Jul 1880 at Delevan
- “The Practice of Law,” lecture at law school, 27 May 1882.

Volume III:

- Minutes of an “irregular” meeting of the Club night before the City election, no year given. Debate question: “Which most deserves the sympathy of the American People, the Indians or the Negro?” Minutes taken by Ewing.
- “The First Century,” lecture delivered before the “Club”, 20 Jan 1881.
- Address to the Law Class of Bloomington Law School, 20 Jun 1879.