

McLean County Museum of History

Folsom, Elizabeth Irons Collection

Processed by
Lorry McIntyre
Winter 2015

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1886- 1992; mostly 1919-1935.
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:	None

Brief History

Elizabeth Irons Folsom was born in Peoria, Illinois, in 1876. She moved to Bloomington as a young girl and graduated from Bloomington High School. She worked at the *Daily Pantagraph* as a drama critic, then a columnist, and finally 14 years as court reporter. She began writing short stories when she realized she was losing her eyesight. Her short stories were published in popular magazines of the time, and she won the O. Henry Memorial Award for best short story – “Towers of Fame” – in 1923. She died in 1935 in the state hospital in Kankakee following a long illness.

She was married twice: first to *Pantagraph* advertising manager Percy A. Folsom, and a number of years after his death to Chicago stock broker William Fox.

Scope

The collection includes a number of her short stories, many newspaper articles about her honors and awards, biographical material, as well as her death certificate and obituaries.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Biographical Material

- 1.1 "Mrs. Maria Irons, Dead," (mother) *Pantagraph*, February 27, 1911, p.7.
- 1.2 "Mrs. Folsom Tells How She Writes Stories," *Pantagraph*, November 3, 1919, p. 15.
- 1.3 "Mrs. E. I. Folsom In Her Own Story," *Pantagraph*, April 1, 1924, p. 3.
- 1.4 "Mrs. E. I. Folsom Well Known Writer Is Visiting Here," *Pantagraph*, November 26, 1926, p. 8
- 1.5 "Dinner for Mrs. Folsom One of Interesting Social Events of Week," *Pantagraph*, September 30, 1928.
- 1.6 "Elizabeth I. Folsom, William Fox, Broker, Wedded in Chicago," *Pantagraph*, August 12, 1930, p. 6.
- 1.7 Drawing of Mrs. Folsom, *Pantagraph*, August 12, 1930. (2)
- 1.8 Death certificate, Kankakee County.
- 1.9 "Elizabeth Folsom-Fox, Who Won Fame as Fiction Writer, Dies," *Pantagraph*, March 3, 1935, p. 3.
- 1.10 Copy of 1.8.
- 1.11 "Successful Though Blind," *Pantagraph*, January 16, 1949, p. 19.
- 1.12 "Elizabeth Irons Folsom," *Bloomington-Normal Magazine*, November, 1979, pp. 25-26.
- 1.13 Biographical sketch, 1 p., incl. 3 p. bibliography.

Folder 2: Newspaper Articles

- 2.1 "Mrs. Folsom's Latest Story In the 'American,'" *Pantagraph*, October 5, 1920, p. 5.
- 2.2 "Mrs. Folsom In Elite Company," *Pantagraph*, June 3, 1921, p. 6.
- 2.3 "Class Struggle In Mrs. Folsom Story," *Pantagraph*, June 1, 1923, p. 12.
- 2.4 "Mrs. Folsom Pens Story of Lincoln," *Pantagraph*, June 18, 1923.
- 2.5 "In Her First Novel Mrs. Folsom Retains Short Story Merits," *Daily Bulletin*, August 28, 1925, p. 3.

Folder 3: Honors, Awards and Prizes

- 3.1 "Mrs. Elizabeth Irons Folsom is Awarded O. Henry Memorial Prize for Best Short Story," *Pantagraph*, March 22, 1924, p. 11.
- 3.2 "Ex-Lumberjack Writes O. Henry Prize Story," *New York Times*, March 22, 1924, p. 15.
- 3.3 "Near Blind, Wins Prize," *New York Times*, March 30, 1924, sec. 9, p. 2.
- 3.4 "Mrs. Elizabeth Folsom Receives Another Honor From Literary Critics," *Pantagraph*, December 9, 1928, p. 3-B.

- 3.5 “Elizabeth Irons Folsom, The sunny days and dark nights of a writer,” *Pantagraph*, April 30, 1992, C1.

Folder 4: Newspaper Short Stories

- 4.1 “A Year Ago” (short story), *Pantagraph*, November 25, 1886, p. 2. (First published story?)

Folder 5: Short Stories, 1919 – 1920

- 5.1 “The High Cost,” *Sunset*, March 1919, pp. 42-43.
5.2 “A Face in the Crowd,” *Bellman magazine*, March 15, 1919, pp. 294-6.
5.3 “Bain Twins and the Detectative,” *American Magazine*, October, 1919, pp. 50-52; 197-201.
5.4 “The Alibi,” *Sunset, the Pacific Monthly*, May 1920, pp. 49-50.
5.5 “Mrs. Charles Grimes,” *Sunset, the Pacific Monthly*, October 1920, pp. 33-34.
5.6 “What Opened Jerry’s Eyes to Bertha,” *American Magazine*, October 1920, pp. 38-41; 265-270.

Folder 6: Short Stories, 1923 –1924

- 6.1 “Hem of Her Skirt,” *Good Housekeeping*, February 1923, pp. 44-47; 159-165.
6.2 “Some Other Time,” *Sunset Magazine*, February 1923, pp. 23-24; 54 and 56.
6.3 “Lion in His Den,” *Good Housekeeping*, June 1923, pp. 46-47; 138-148.
6.4 “New Stories of Abe Lincoln,” *American Magazine*, pp. 47, 120, 129-130.
6.5 “Towers of Fame,” *Current Opinion*, February 1924, pp. 181-185.

Folder 7: Muncey Magazine, 1925

- 7.1 *The Muncey Magazine*, September, 1925, “No Punch,” pp. 703-707.