

McLean County Museum of History

Mason Family Collection

Inventoried by
Carol Straka
January 2013

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	One box
COLLECTION DATES:	1836-1962
PROVENANCE:	Augusta Knuth donated most of these items in 1986 and the remainder from 1998-2000 Knuth was the stepdaughter of Frank Mason, step granddaughter of S.B. Mason and step great granddaughter of Solomon Mason.
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: Photos – People – Mason Photos – Subject- Prairie Farms Creamery Board (4 photos) Photos - Subject- Downs Township SB Mason Farm (76 photos)

Brief History

Key Family Members:

Solomon Mason (1801- 91) Born in Jessamine County, KY, Solomon farmed in Ohio with his father. In 1839 Solomon headed to McLean County and settled in 1840 on land in Section 18 of Downs Twp. By 1879 he owned 240 acres in Downs Twp and 200 in Cropsey Twp. He was long a member of United Brethren Church. Solomon married Eliz. Fryer in 1820 and had 11 children. She died in 1850; he remarried in 1854 to Eliz. Brook (1815-80). Their four children eventually included Samuel B., William H. Charles A. and Stephen E. (1864-65).

Children of Solomon & Elizabeth Brooks Mason:

Samuel B., known as “**S.B.**” (1855-1940), was born and raised on the farm near Downs. He wed Ellen Lozier (1855 -1931) in 1876. Of their eleven children, at least five survived to adulthood: Frank D., Howard, Carrie (1881-1947), Bertha (Dambold) and Nelle (Varney.) He remained an active member of United Brethren all his life. In 1900 he moved to Bloomington where he became active in mutual insurance. S.B. became director of the Bloomington Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He was also active for years in both state and national mutual insurance associations. S.B. was involved in State Farm at its inception and served as first president of its board. S.B. also served for twenty one years as school trustee, seven years as justice of the peace, and eleven years as a county board member. For twenty six years he was the district director of the Illinois Farmers Institute which preceded the Farm Bureau. Not surprisingly, S.B. was part of the original organizing committee of the McLean County Farm Bureau.

William H. b. about 1857- ? became a Presbyterian minister in Illinois and Missouri.

Charles A. (1859-1931) held a series of job, mostly manual labor. He died at Jacksonville State Hospital after living there eight years.

Son of S.B. & Ellen Mason:

Frank Duncan Mason (1885-1959) married Ida Miller in 1939. Augusta Knuth (b.1912) is Ida's daughter. Frank farmed all his life, mostly on the family farm near Downs. He was on the Prairie Farms Creamery board of directors for twenty years. A member of Second Presbyterian Church, Frank was also in the Arts & Crafts Masonic Lodge, Bloomington Consistory and Downs Knights of Pythias Lodge.

Scope Note

This collection includes biographical materials; personal, family and business correspondence; church records; estate documents; real estate deeds and leases; financial records; dairymen's publications; newspaper articles; insurance company applications; and more.

Box 1 (46 Folders)

Biographical & Genealogical (Folders 1-3)

Folder 1: Obituaries and Biographies

- 1.1.1 Biographies of Solomon and D.W. Mason, *History of McLean County Illinois*, LeBaron, 1879.
- 1.1.2 "A Sheaf Fully Ripe," *Pantagraph* obituary for Solomon Mason, 1891 Oct 29.
- 1.1.3 "S.B. Mason, A Sketch," autobiography, appears to be early 1930s, 2pp.
- 1.1.4 "S.B. Mason, Farm Leader, Dies at Age 84," *Pantagraph*, 1940 Feb 21.
- 1.1.5 Charles Mason death certificate, 1931. (Staff added this to collection in 2013.)
- 1.1.6 "Woman Killed in Crash," *Pantagraph*, 1947. Also, "Mason Death Found Accidental" and "Mason Funeral," undated.
- 1.1.7 Frank D. Mason obituary, *Pantagraph*, undated.

Folder 2: Newspaper Articles

- 1.2.1 "Rotarians Hear Discussion of Milk Industry," *Pantagraph*, undated and "100 Hens lay 3,733 Eggs," also undated is letter from Rev. W.H.Mason of Bethany, Ill.
- 1.2.2 "Telling City Folks About It," captioned photo of parade float from McLean County Milk Producers Ass'n," *Pantagraph* undated. Also, Captioned photo of officers of the McLean County Milk Producers Assn, undated.
- 1.2.3 "Praises Deeds of Carrie Mason," undated letter of editor of *Pantagraph*, and advertisement with photo for estate sale of Carrie Mason's home at 907 S Lee Street, *Pantagraph*, 1948.
- 1.2.4 "Creamery Serves 1500 Dinners," by Frank W. Bill of *Pantagraph*, undated. Concerns Prairie Farm Creamery of Bloomington.
- 1.2.5 "Many Fields to be Plowed on Contour," by Frank W. Bill of *Pantagraph*, 1951 Apr 6. *Note from donor: farmland adjacent to Mason farm.*
- 1.2.6 "Labor Shortage Cause for Dairy Sale," by Bob McCain of *Pantagraph*, 1951 Oct 16.
- 1.2.7 "Mighty Oak from Little Acorns," captioned *Pantagraph* photo, 1962 Jan 8.
- 1.2.8 "Frank D. Mason's Public Sale," "Public Dairy Sale," (Oct 1951) and "Sale by Sealed bids on S.B. Mason Farm, Downs Township, (1962, 1963).
- 1.2.9 "Gravel for 13 Miles of Roads Taken from S.B. Mason Farm," captioned *Pantagraph* photo of farm with pits, undated.

Folder 3: Genealogy

- 1.3.1 Handwritten Varney Ancestry, undated.

Correspondence (Folders 4-7)

Folder 4: 1848-77

- 1.4.1 Bennett Fryer at Abington, IA, to Solomon Mason at Bloomington, 1848 Aug 30, reporting deaths and illness of lung or congestive fever in a family.
- 1.4.2 Joshua Mason at Parkersville(?) Marion County, IA, 1852, to Solomon Mason at

- Bloomington requesting collection of notes due to Joshua.
- 1.4.3 George W. Mason at Baskerville, Marion County, IA, to his father Solomon Mason at Bloomington, 1852 Oct 19, concerning the trip to IA, farming, and plans to settle in, bartering and financial arrangements, etc.
 - 1.4.4 Lydia Evans to father Solomon Mason at Bloomington, 1852 Dec 7, concerning life, farming, etc. at Story County, IA.
 - 1.4.5 D.W. Mason at Otterbein University, OH, to father Solomon Mason, 1852 Dec 15, concerning relatives visited in Indiana plus circumstances and costs at university.
 - 1.4.6 Lydia and Wm. G. Evans at Story County, IA, to Solomon Mason, 1859 Mar 7, concerning the prior request for money, discussion with Eliza, etc.
 - 1.4.7 John Magoun sale of 160 Acres of land to Solomon Mason, 1858 May 19, and Magoun's obligation to make good if problems arise.
 - 1.4.8 G.W. Mason (probably near Kingston City, Linn County, IA) to father Solomon via Daniel (D.W. Mason), 1858 Apr 11, concerning mission conversion work in IA, father's proposal, etc.
 - 1.4.9 Amos Mason at Newborn, IA, to Solomon Mason at Bloomington, 1858 Jul 18, concerning family health, farming, and request for financial assistance.
 - 1.4.10 Amos Mason to Solomon Mason, 1858 Jul 22, with further particulars on farming results. Sent in same envelope as July 18 letter.
 - 1.4.11 Samuel Brook (with Polly Brook) at Park County (IN?) to Solomon Mason and Eliz. Mason, 1858 Jul 30, concerning matters at home, etc.
 - 1.4.12 George W. Mason at Marion County IA 1858 or 59 July 28, concerning financial arrangements for land purchase.
 - 1.4.13 E.W. Eastman (?) at Eldora Hardin Co IA to Solomon Mason, 1860 Feb 1, concerning payment for legal work for divorce, custody and alimony suit of Mason's daughter Eliza French after ex-husband absconded.
 - 1.4.14 Sylvester Bousher to Solomon and Eliz. Mason 1860 Feb 8, concerning family and farming.
 - 1.4.15 Mary Brook to Solomon and Eliz. Mason, 1863 Feb 26, concerning family news, army enlistments, etc.
 - 1.4.16 John Harrison at Holder to "Brother Mason," 1876 Aug 30, arranging meeting.
 - 1.4.17 Postcard: E. Horr of Bloomington to Silas Armstrong at Gillum, 1877 Jan 16, concerning purchase of note of Sylvester Smith.

Folder 5: 1879-81

- 1.5.1 Sylvester Bowsher at Harveysburg, IN, to "Uncle, Aunt & Cousins," 1879 Aug 10, concerning general update, wheat farming, etc.
- 1.5.2 William O and M.M. Miller at Tehama, CA, to father Solomon Mason at Downs, 1879 Oct 28, concerning family, family contacts, farming, and a financial arrangement (loan?).
- 1.5.3 W.O. and Mary Miller at Tehama, CA, to Solomon Mason at Downs, 1879 Nov 17, concerning receipt of draft, farming, etc.
- 1.5.4 Hannah Ritta Mason at Philomath, Oregon, to Solomon Mason at Downs, 1879 Nov 28, concerning her extended family.

- 1.5.5 J. King at Danville, IN, to dear brother,” 1880 Mar 8, concerning religious wishes. Insert from J. King to Samuel B. Mason, concerning sending him a chicken.
- 1.5.6 H.G. Mason at Alma City, NB, to grandfather Solomon Mason at Downs, 1881 Apr 19, concerning arranging a bank draft from Solomon.
- 1.5.7 Laura E. Mason at Newbern, IA, to “grandfather,” 1881 May 2, thanking him for money, inviting him to visit, and advising family and local news.
- 1.5.8 J.A. and L. J. Western at Bethany, MO, to “uncle,” 1881 Apr 19, concerning arrangement to receive money.
- 1.5.9 H.G.? Mason at Alma, NB, to “grandfather,” 1881 May 9, concerning receipt of money, local conditions, and his family.
- 1.5.10 S.J.Western at Bethany, MO, to uncle S.B. Mason at Downs, 1881 May 18, concerning receipt of money from S.B.’s father, and writing to Solomon about her family, teaching, farming, etc.
- 1.5.11 J.M. ? Mason at Topeka, KN, to S.B. Mason at Downs, 1881 (Oct 20?) concerning enclosed receipt for dowry against father’s estate,
- 1.5.12 Postcard from J.W. Mason at Topeka, KN, to S.B. Mason at Downs, 1881 Oct 28, concerning the “old woman” being sick and eventually leaving for the “way off country.”
- 1.5.13 Sarah M. Horine on stationery or Chicago’s E.R. Walker & Co. to father Solomon Mason at Downs, 12 Oct 188_, concerning father’s gift of money, his poor health precluding a visit, etc.
- 1.5.14 S.M. ? Horine at Chicago to her brother? S.B. Mason at Downs, 1881 Oct 21, thanking for money from S.B. & father, etc.
- 1.5.15 Wm. O. and Mary Miller at Tehama, CA, to Solomon Mason at Downs, 1881 Oct 26, concerning receipt, farming and family.
- 1.5.16 Wm. O. and Mary Miller at Tehama, CA, to S.B. Mason and father at Downs, 1881 Nov 20, thanking for money and discussing family and farming.
- 1.5.17 Western Union Telegram from Solomon Mason at Bloomington to Eliza M. French at Atlanta Health Institute, 14 Dec 188_ plus Atlanta National Bank draft for \$100 drawn charged against Solomon Mason, 1881 Dec 20 . Separately, envelope from Atlanta Health Institute address to Solomon Mason, July 25 18??

Folder 6: 1882-84

- 1.6.1 L.J. Western at Bethany, MO, to uncle S.B. Mason at Downs, 1882 Jan 27, concerning amount of financial gift.
- 1.6.2 H.G. Mason at Alma, NB, to “grandfather,” 1882 Feb 12, concerning receiving money and farming.
- 1.6.3 Lina J. Western at Bethany, MO, to uncle S.B. Mason at Downs, 1882 Feb 18, concerning draft received, farming, etc.
- 1.6.4 J.J. Mason at Newbern, IA, to brother S.B. Mason at Downs, 1882 Mar 9, concerning incorrect payee on check received, family, etc.
- 1.6.5 Jiney ? J. Mason at Newbern, IA, to brother S.B. Mason at Downs, 1882 March 23, concerning financial gift and other relatives contact info.

- 1.6.6 Postcard: J.J.Mason at Newbern, IA to brother S.B. Mason at Downs, 1882 Apr 28 acknowledging receipt of check.
- 1.6.7 Hary (sic) Bunnery(?) at Akron, MO, to uncle Solomon Mason at Downs, 1882 May 27, concerning family and farming.
- 1.6.8 _____ Bunnery at Akron MO, to S.B. Mason at Downs, 1882 Oct 1, concerning health, family, farming, circumstances of John Brook, and request for pictures.
- 1.6.9 G.W. Mason at Fort Collins to brother S.B. Mason at Downs, 1882 Oct 6, concerning health, crops, photos of grandchildren, Fort Collins, etc.
- 1.6.10 C.A. Mason at Lexington, IL, to S.B. Mason at Downs, 1882 Dec 1 or 7, concerning farming, fire at Methodist Church, and his soap-making business.
- 1.6.11 C.A. Mason at Lexington, IL, to "Father", 1882 Dec 8, concerning pine tar soap product, religious life, and asking for a financial loan for the business.
- 1.6.12 C.A. Mason at Saybrook, IL, to S.B. Mason at Downs, 1883 Apr 2, concerning when to return to Lexington, work at Saybrook, recent marriage, etc.
- 1.6.13 Postcard: Brown & Boyd at Dayton, OH, to C.A. Mason at Bloomington, 1883 Jun 25, concerning unpaid debt.
- 1.6.14 C.A. Mason at Peoria, IL to brother S.B. Mason at Downs, 1883 Aug 3, concerning long work days, possibly going to IA, Cate's dissatisfaction, etc.
- 1.6.15 Chief of Police John Minor at Peoria, IL, to S.B. Mason at Downs, 1883 Sep 7, concerning Charles Mason being detained for his own benefit.
- 1.6.16 C.A. Mason at Farney, Woodford Co, IL, to S.B. Mason at Downs, 1883 Sep 10, concerning working south of Eureka
- 1.6.17 C.A. Mason at Bloomington to brother Rev. W.H. Mason at Dover, 1884 Jan 14, responding to his brother W.H.'s letter and rejecting his form of religion, preferring to continue working at an in-town real estate business instead of farming, etc.
 Starting on back of last page of above letter, W.H. Mason at Dover IL to brother S. B. Mason at Downs, 1884 Jan 21, concerning his communication with brother C.A. Mason and that brother's behavior exhibiting "some form of insanity," S.B.'s workshop, other relatives, etc.
 Also enclosed, Request to Solomon Mason for payment of debt incurred 1879 Nov 22 of 25 cents for grinding on razor.
 And, three newspaper clippings from Peoria Journal concerning how Bloomingtonian Charles Mason was duped by a Mr. Woods who promised to help him find an affluent wife of high social standing in Peoria.
- 1.6.18 Mrs. H.T. Kelly at Bloomington on Thomas F. Tipton law office stationery to Solomon Mason at Downs, 1884 Jan 23, concerning unpaid boarding debt of Solomon's son Charles B. Mason.

Folder 7: 1886-1962 & Undated

- 1.7.1 Curtis King at Danville, IN, to Mrs. E.M. French 1886 Nov 22, advising of the death of his wife and wishing to give French her book. On back, E.M. French writes to "Father and family" on the death of "Aunt June," Nov 2? Thanksgiving.

- 1.7.2 G.? M. Mason at Newbern IA, to "father," 1888, concerning his occupation, farm produce prices, land investment, "gold excitement," etc.
- 1.7.3 W.H. Mason At Elmwood, IL, to brother S.B. Mason, 1892 Feb 5, concerning C.A.'s correspondence and debts; potential real estate investment near Decatur; ministerial duties; selling price for his timber and rental price for his farmland; etc.
- 1.7.4 Typed half-sheet from E. C. Martens (Receiver) at Bloomington to Stockholders of the McLean County Telephone Company, 1909 Dec 8, concerning dissolution payment.
- 1.7.5 Postcard: Wm. B. McFarland of Grant Township Mutual Insurance Co at Hoopeston, IL, to S.B. Mason at Bloomington, 1913 Feb 26, concerning assessment with handwritten note welcoming his visit 3 Feb 1919.
- 1.7.6 Postcard: Alice & Fannie Fell at Battle Creek, MI, to S.B. Mason at Bloomington, 1920 Sep 13, concerning the good food and attractive Sanitarium where they are being treated. Picture postcard of dining room of sanitarium.
- 1.7.7 Clare Emerson at French Camp, CA, to Carrie Mason at Bloomington, 1946 Dec 19, concerning her job at San Joaquin General Hospital and eventual retirement, etc.
- 1.7.8 Congressman Less Arends on official stationery to F.D. Mason at Bloomington, 1962 Mar 15, concerning Mason's and Arends' positions on the Administration's farm proposal.
- 1.7.9 Postcard from D.W. Mason at LeRoy to S.B. Mason at Downs, Oct 8.
- 1.7.10 Wm O & Mary M. Miller at Bloomington to father Solomon Mason, " Apr 13 (no year), concerning Solomon deeding land to Miller; coming disposition of French court cases.

Churches (Folders 8-9)

Folder 8: United Brethren Church

- 1.8.1 Affidavit by Lawson Downs, Solomon Mason and Amos Mason that they are duly elected by conference of United Brethren as Trustees of meeting house to be built at Randolph Grove, 1854 Sep 16.
- 1.8.2 Souvenir Programme of Randolph Chapel fiftieth anniversary commemoration, 1893 Nov 5. Includes history of the church, membership, etc. Fragile original and photocopy included.
- 1.8.3 Receipt for Solomon Mason's payment of \$100 note to Union Biblical Seminary of Dayton, OH, signed by S.S. Christensen, Agt UBS, 1875 Sep 24.
- 1.8.4 Sunday School attendance records for each quarter of 1894 and 95. 7 items.
- 1.8.5 Treasurer's Report for McLean County Sunday School Association made to the convention at LeRoy, IL 1896 May 27-28, by Geo. D. Sitherwood.

Folder 9: Other churches

- 1.9.1 First Christian Church (Bloomington) program for 1941 Mar 30.
- 1.9.2 Second Church News for Second Presbyterian Church (Bloomington), 1942 Oct 9.

Schools (Folders 10-11)

Folder 10: Diamond Grove School (Downs Township)

- 1.10.1 Souvenir Program for Fiftieth Anniversary of founding of School District No.2, Downs Township.1909 Aug 31. Includes 1859 photo of school.
- 1.10.2 Photocopy of deed from Solomon and Elizabeth Mason to township trustees for land to build a school house for District No. 2, 1959 Apr 1. Consideration was \$1 – a gift.

Folder 11: Bloomington Schools

All items are for the Bloomington High School except the first one (Lincoln School); items 9-11 which covers both grammar and high schools); and items 15-16.

- 1.11.1 Early mimeograph program for Thanksgiving program at Lincoln School, 1898 Nov 23.
- 1.11.2 Senior Play program *Bread on the Waters*, 1904 Apr 8-9.
- 1.11.3 Program for Juniors Reception at Cooper Hall, 1904 May 13.
- 1.11.4 Class Night Program, A Country Literary Society, 1904 May 31.
- 1.11.5 Class Night Program, 1905 May 27.
- 1.11.6 Program for Seniors Reception at Cooper Hall, 1904 May 13.
- 1.11.7 Invitation to Commencement Exercises at Grand Opera House, 1904 Jun 2.
- 1.11.8 Invitation to Commencement Exercises at Grand Opera House, 1905 Jun 1.
- 1.11.9 Program for Graduating Exercises at Coliseum, 1901 Jun 6. Includes grammar and high schools.
- 1.11.10 Program for Graduating Exercises at Grand Opera House, 1904 Jun 2, 2 copies.
- 1.11.11 Program for Graduating Exercises at Grand Opera House, 1905 Jun 1.
- 1.11.12 Program of BHS Alumni Association at Houghton Lake, 1904 Jun 17. Lists speech by Frank Mason '04.
- 1.11.13 Program of BHS Alumni Association at Houghton Lake, 1905 Jun 20.
- 1.11.14 Program of BHS Alumni Association at Miller Park, 1907 Jun 27.
- 1.11.15 Bloomington Public Schools promotion cards for Frank Mason for 1898-99, 3 items.
- 1.11.16 Bloomington Public Schools report cards for Frank Mason, 1893 & 99, 3 items.

Real Estate Transactions (Folders 12-13)

Folder 12: Deeds & related

All land is located in McLean County Township 22 north of Range 3 East (Downs Twp) unless otherwise indicated. Info includes seller to buyer, approximate acreage, consideration, and date.

- 1.12.1 Henry J. Gecoben (sp?) and wife Julian to State Bank of Illinois, 6 parcels for \$1,000, 1836 Nov 25.
- 1.12.2 Solomon & wife Eliz. Mason to George W. Mason, 5 & 30 acres for \$1, 1847 May 20.
- 1.12.3 George W. Mason and wife Lucinda to Wm. D. Evans, 5 & 30 acres for \$ 465, 1851 Jan 21.

- 1.12.4 Wm J. Evans and wife Lydia to Willis C. Willhoite, 5 acres for \$ 660, 1852 May 27.
- 1.12.5 Solomon Mason to Amos Mason, 5 acres for \$50, 1853 Oct 26.
- 1.12.6 Jesse Johnson to Solomon Mason, 2/3 of 20 acres of winter wheat on farm of John J. Bishop, 2/3 of 25 acres of spring wheat, 2/3 of 14 acres of barley and oats for \$ 75.90, 1860 May 15. Land is given as collateral if Johnson fails to share as agreed. Land is located in various Downs areas.
- 1.12.7 Samuel Hoover to Eliz. Roberts, 5 acres for \$ 250, 1864 Aug 27.
- 1.12.8 John Brightman to John Mowry (?), 2 acres for \$ 130, 1865 Oct 2.
- 1.12.9 Solomon Mason to John Mowry, 2 acres for \$ 280, 1865 Oct 10. In compliance with court decree Sept 1856 from lawsuit in which Mowry was complainant and Mason was defendant.
- 1.12.10 John Brightman to Solomon Mason, 2 acres for \$525, 1867 Oct 18.
- 1.12.11 Peter H. Moler & wife Eliz. To A.A. Roberts, 5 acres for \$400, 1869 Sep 15.
- 1.12.12 Ausker A. Roberts & wife Sarah E. Roberts to Solomon Mason, 5 acres for \$450, 1870 July 27.
- 1.12.13 J.H. Wilhoit & wife Almeda plus 13 others to Solomon Mason, 30 acres for \$1, 1874 March 3.
- 1.12.14 J.H. Wilhoite & wife plus 4 others to Solomon Mason 55 & 30 acres excluding graveyard for \$ 3,125, 1874 Mar 3.
- 1.12.15 Mariah Wellhoite plus 9 others to Solomon Mason, 30 & 35 acres for \$ 3,123, 1874 March 5.
- 1.12.16 John H. Wilhoite & wife Almedia to Solomon Mason, 30 acres for \$1, 1880 Feb 14. Correction to 1874 March 3.
- 1.12.17 Solomon Mason to Clinton, Bloomington & Northeastern Railway Company, for \$100, 1879 Jun 23. Sale contingent upon railway building station house (Downs Station), using track, etc. by 1880 Nov 1. Plus accompany letter from successor corporation Illinois Central Railroad Company that accompanied payment of the \$100, dated 1880 Nov 6. Land in Township 24 north of Range 6 East.
- 1.12.18 Solomon Mason to Samuel B. and Wm. H. Mason, with Solomon to retain use and occupation for his lifetime, 1881 Jun 21.
- 1.12.19 Emma Young (signed by S.B. Mason) to Sarah Coulter, Downs city lot for \$600, 1895 June 14.
- 1.12.20 Handwritten receipt signed by W. Adamson for three deeds from E.H. French involving S.G. Mason, undated.

Folder 13: Notes about land sales

- 1.13.1 Handwritten notes including some sketches of plots for various parcels, undated.

Insurance Business (Folders 14-16)

Folder 14: Bloomington Mutual Fire Insurance Company applications

- 1.14.1 155 applications for fire insurance coverage, mostly from McLean County residents outside of Bloomington-Normal, 1899-1900. Plus five accompanying letters from applicants.

Folder 15: Illinois Inspection Bureau cards

- 1.15.1 135 cards noting types of Bloomington-Normal businesses by address and insurance data, 1925-48.

Folder 16: National Aid Society and National Life Company

- 1.16.1 Five letters from Society at Chicago to Chas A. Mason at Bloomington requesting payments, Jun-Oct 1883.
- 1.16.2 Two life insurance policies with Solomon Mason with benefits payable to Charles A. Mason, both dated 1883 June 20.
- 1.16.3 Pamphlet from National Aid Society at Chicago regarding its life insurance offerings, etc., undated.
- 1.16.4 Pamphlet for National Life Company of Des Moines, 1945.

Dairy and Farming (Folders 17-20)

Folder 17: Prairie Farms Producer

- 1.17.1 F.D. Mason's copies of 35 issues of *Prairie Farms Producer*, intermittent issues from Nov 1939-Nov 1950. Published monthly by Farmers Creamery Company at Normal.

Folder 18: Dairymen's publications

- 1.18.1 Farmers Creamery Company (Bloomington) souvenir program for new facility dedication, 1941 Aug 2.
- 1.18.2 Farmers Creamery Company annual report, 1944.
- 1.18.3 "Prairie Farmer Creamery to Buy Whole Milk," mailer soliciting farmers to sell them whole milk and also identify contract haulers, undated.
- 1.18.4 "Marketing Milk through the MCMPPA," 1942 annual report for the McLean County Milk Producers Association.
- 1.18.5 "Marketing Milk through the MCMPPA," 1943 annual report for the McLean County Milk Producers Association.
- 1.18.6 "Marketing Milk through the MCMPPA," 1944 annual report for the McLean County Milk Producers Association.
- 1.18.7 Program for Third Annual Midwestern Milk Marketing Conference held at Michigan State College, 1948 Apr 2-3.
- 1.18.8 Illinois Milk Producers Association 1945 annual report, 1945 Nov 27.
- 1.18.9 Illinois Agricultural Association *Record*, Dec 1940.
- 1.18.10 "Producers Creameries Face Change," on Illinois Producers' Creameries and government milk diversion problem, undated from unidentified publication.
- 1.18.11 *The Dairy Director*, issued by National Cooperative Milk Producers Federation at D.C., 1946 Oct 10. Minus cutout.
- 1.18.12 "Dairy Outlook for Illinois Promising," by Wilfred Shaw from *Popkess' Dairyman's Journal*, 1940 Jan.
- 1.18.13 "McLean County Producers Hold Annual Meeting," in *Popkess' Dairyman's Journal*, 1941 Jan.

- 1.18.14 "Illinois Milk Producers Meeting in St. Louis Jan 29," in *Popkess' Dairyman's Journal*, 1941 Mar.
- 1.18.15 "W.L. May Re-elected Head of McLean Co. Milk Producers," in *Popkess' Dairyman's Journal*, 1941 Mar.
- 1.18.16 "\$125,000 Bloomington Creamery Plant Dedicated August 2," in *Popkess' Dairyman's Journal*, 1941 Sep.
- 1.18.17 "Bloomington Going Great," in *Popkess' Dairyman's Journal*, 1945 Sep.
- 1.18.18 "These were the headlines that marked a critical year," in publication from Dairy Products Marketing Association, Inc. at Chgo, 1945 Dec.
- 1.18.19 *DPMA News*, published by Dairy Products Marketing Association, Inc. at Chgo, Jul 1945.
- 1.18.20 "You'll Want to Know the Truth about the Price Ceiling Bill as it affects Farmers," 15 pp. booklet by National Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation, 1942 Jan.

Folder 19: Farm Bureau

- 1.19.1 Receipt to F.D. Mason for \$25 for one share of Service Co. stock from McLean Co. Farm Bureau, 1932 Apr 30.
- 1.19.2 "You and Your Neighbor," 32 pp booklet of McLean County Farm Bureau membership, 1950 Mar 1.
- 1.19.3 "The American Farm Bureau Spirit," sheet music for song, copyright 1930.

Folder 20: Miscellaneous Farming

- 1.20.1 F.D. Mason's delegate ribbon for 35th annual meeting of Illinois Agricultural Association, Chgo, 1949 Nov 14-17.
- 1.20.2 USDA Tuberculin Test result report for Frank Mason's 25 cattle, 1936 Jun.
- 1.20.3 Letter from Tiemann Hybrid Corn Testing Laboratory at Bloomington to Frank Mason at Bloomington enclosing sample of hybrid corn seed, 1947 Feb 10.
- 1.20.4 Illinois Corn Growers Association handbook, 1910 Jan 24. Includes list of officers, constitution and bylaws, corn and potato "score card" info and more.

Other Business (Folders 21-24)

Folder 21: Notary Public and Justice of Peace commissions

- 1.21.1 Notary public commissions for Samuel B. Mason, 1881 Dec 17, 1885 Dec 17, 1889 Dec 17, and 1893 Dec 18.
- 1.21.2 Justice of the Peace commissions for S.B. Mason, 1887 Apr 25 and 1889 Apr.

Folder 22: Z.T. Hatfield materials

S.B. Mason served as his agent

- 1.22.1 Two property tax records, 1895 and unidentified.
- 1.22.2 Eight invoices and receipts, 1891-96.
- 1.22.3 Lease: Z.T. Hatfield to Jonas A. Lawrence, "Hatfield Place" in Priceville (Downs) for \$8 monthly until real estate sells, 1892 Feb 17.
- 1.22.4 Lease: Z.T. Hatfield to W.T. Wooseley for part of "Hatfield Place" in Priceville (Downs) for \$4 monthly, 1892 Jun 25.

1.22.5 Lease: Z.T. Hatfield to Mrs. H.C. Steen for three rooms of "Hatfield Place" in Priceville (Downs) for \$4 monthly until real estate sells, 1892 Sep 5.

Folder 23: G.H. Johnson materials

1.23.1 Two 1893/94 letters and misc. notes concerning rent, receipts, etc.

Folder 24: Union Hall Company

1.24.1 Stock certificate of Union Hall Company of Downs, Illinois for S.B. Mason, 1889 Dec 18.

Estates (Folders 25-29)

Folder 25: Solomon Mason Estate

1.25.1 Misc. invoices, tax records, etc., 1892-3, 9 items.

Folder 26: Advancement of Legacy Statements

1.26.1 Nineteen receipts for advancement given during Solomon's lifetime, 1854-81. 19 items.

See also 1.38.2 account book related to these matters.

Folder 27: Claim Relinquishments

1.27.1 Signed relinquishments of claims to Solomon Mason estate, 1854-82. 10 items.

Folder 28: Statements of Full Receipt of shares in Solomon Mason's Estate

1.28.1 Signed statements, 1881-82. 10 items.

Folder 29: S.B. Mason Will & Executor's Report

1.29.1 Will of S.B. Mason, 1936 Jan 28, 2 pp.

1.29.2 Executor's Final Report by Richard T. Dunn, no date or signature, 7 pp.

Financial Records (Folders 30-39)

Folder 30: Receipts 1

1.30.1 25 items, receipts and promissory notes, related to disposition of estate of Michael Mason 1842-54.

Folder 31: Receipts 2

1.31.1 116 items, including receipts, statements and checks, many from local merchants, service providers, and governmental taxing bodies; some items related to Michael Mason estate; 1839-95.

Folder 32: Receipts 3

1.32.1 15 items, including notes, checks and receipts, 1881-93. Includes certificate for one share of capital stock for McLean Co. Grange Agricultural Association of Bloomington, Illinois held by S.B. Mason, 20 Dec 1882.

Folder 33: Receipts 4

1.33.1 40 items, mostly receipts for payments made on behalf of C.A. Mason, 1888-90.

Folder 34: Receipts for Emma Young

1.34.1 5 items, 1894-95.

Folder 35: Receipts and Recipes

1.35.1 20 items, including Women's Relief Corp receipt (1921); misc receipts 1934-35; recipes, etc.

Folder 36: Property Tax Receipts

1.36.1 60 items, property tax receipts and records, 1851-1932.

Folder 37: Misc. Handwritten Notes

1.37.1 6 items, several appear related to land, undated.

Folder 38: Large Account Books

1.38.1 F.D. Mason in acct with various parties including many farm related, about 24 pp used, 1919-34.

1.38.2 Solomon Mason's records of "executing and carrying out my (will) . . . as far as may be possible during my lifetime," 10 pp., 1879-84.

Folder 39: Small Account Books

1.39.1 9 books, 1882, 1889 & 1891.

Miscellaneous (Folders 40-46)

Folder 40: Local Miscellaneous

1.40.1 Pamphlet on Dedication of New McLean County Court House, 1903 Sep 24.

1.40.2 "A Rebirth of Individualism," By Carl Vrooman, 16 pp, 1940.

1.40.3 Wedding invitation for Augusta Stevens Mason to Lawrence E. Knuth, 1939 Jul 15.

1.40.4 *A Christmas Carol* by Chas. Dickens, small soft-back with C.W. Klemm Inc on cover, 99pp.

1.40.5 Card: Souvenir of Merchants Carnival, 1880 or 89, Feb 9

Folder 41: Illinois History and other items

1.41.1 "Stories of the States: Illinois," by Geo. W. Smith, 1912, 32pp.

1.41.2 Program for dedication of Rutledge Tavern, Trent Bros. Cabin, Isaac Gulihur Cabin at New Salem State Park, 1937 Jun 17.

1.41.3 Photo of Pilgrimage to Kaskaskia from *Centennial Bulletin*, 1918.

1.41.4 *Centennial Bulletin*, No 8, 1918 July, includes article on Centennial celebrations, 20pp.

1.41.5 *Governors of Illinois: 1818-1918*, 1917.

1.41.6 "Fundamentals of Better Life," 1912. Includes Articles & Bylaws of University Heights Guild at Decatur, IL.

1.41.7 "Dr. Pierce's Memorandum Book," (Buffalo, NY). 1937/38 advertising and

memo book with no entries.

1.41.8 "Teachers and Students Friend," Vol. 6, No 3, Nov 1906, 96 pp.

Folder 42: Recipes

1.42.1 Assorted handwritten recipes, undated.

Folder 43: Newspaper articles and Misc. Home Economics items

1.43.1 Pantagraph Third Annual Cooking School program, 1928 Sep 4-7

1.43.2 International Live Stock Exposition at Chicago recipes for one piece meals, 8 pp.

1.43.3 10 assorted newspaper clippings with recipes, cooking tips, etc.

Folder 44: Frank Mason's Clubs

1.44.1 Roster of Bloomington Rotary Club, 1960-61, 54 pp.

1.44.2 Rotary in 47 Minutes, 1938, 44pp.

1.44.3 Welcome to Rotary, 1942 April, 20 pp.

1.44.4 33rd Degree Mason certificate, 1944 Apr 7.

1.44.5 Scottish Rite booklet, 1978, 48 pp.

Folder 45: Carrie Mason's autograph book

1.45.1 Undated.

Folder 46: Donor's Inventory and Comments

1.46.1 Inventory, comments on photograph, etc, 1999.