

McLean County Museum of History

School Records Collection

Processed June 2023

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	2 boxes
COLLECTION DATES:	1853-1948
RESTRICTIONS:	Several books are fragile and require special care in handling.
PROVENANCE:	
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 <i>McLean County and Its Schools</i> by William Brigham, 1951, available online at mchistory.org or in the Museum library. And, see other collections for individual schools and related organizations as well as reminiscences, reunions, and other memorabilia in vertical files.

Brief History

Many subscription schools were begun by early settlers, with parents paying a set amount for each child. In 1825, the state legislature passed a law to create free schools. The public objected to taxing for this purpose, and the tax provision was repealed two years later.

After 1837, a state school fund was created by interest on the sale of public lands and distributed to schools based on pupil attendance per teacher schedules. Interest from the sale of the sixteenth section and income from the sixteenth section comprised the Township School Fund. Local taxation of real estate was also allowed to support schools if approved by local voters. Typically, these taxes met only part of the financial need and personal contributions were also required. Many schoolhouses were thus also used for church and community meeting places.

The Illinois Free School Law of 1855 allowed township to organize school districts with elected boards of directors which could levy taxes for buildings and teacher salaries. New school buildings soon dotted the entire county. Additional changes in state funding ensued in coming years.

Originally district numbers were assigned within townships. In 1902, all districts were renumbered on a county-wide basis.

For more details on a wide array of school matters, consult William Brigham's 1951 text.

- Adapted from *McLean County and Its Schools*, 1951, by William Brigham.

Scope

Documents include monthly common school schedules, daily teacher's registers, reports to and from township treasurers, district record and cash books, sand other sundry items.

Box and Folder Inventory

Box 1

Item	School	Dist.	Township	Document	Dates	Teacher	Notes
Folder 1: Baker							
1.1	Baker	109	Arrowsmith	Treasurer's Semi-Annual Statement	Jan 4 -Jul 19, 1902; Jul 1902-Apr 1903		
Folder 2: Bishop's							
2.1	Bishop's		Old Town	Subscription list for brick school building on Wm Bishop's farm land	Mar 1853		Later Sheep Eye School. District 3, then 93
Folder 3: California							
3.1	California	74	Dale	Class Record	1931-1932	Mary E. Springer	Grades 1-8. Blank book published by McKnight & McKnight of Bloomington, IL.
Folder 4: Carlock							
4.1	Carlock	189	White Oak	Common School Schedule	Sep 1947	Vivian B. Nafziger	
4.2	Carlock	189	White Oak	Common School Schedule	Oct 1947	Berneice Nafziger	
4.3	Carlock	189	White Oak	Common School Schedule	Nov 1947	Berneice Nafziger	
4.4	Carlock	189	White Oak	Common School Schedule	Dec 1947	Berneice Nafziger	
4.5	Carlock	189	White Oak	Common School Schedule	Jan 1948	Berneice Nafziger	
4.6	Carlock	189	White Oak	Common School Schedule	Feb 1948	Vivian B. Nafziger	
4.7	Carlock	189	White Oak	Common School Schedule	Mar 1948	Vivian B. Nafziger	
4.8	Carlock	189	White Oak	Common School Schedule	May 1948	Vivian B. Nafziger	
4.9	Carlock	189	White Oak	Envelope for Common School schedule	Jun 1948		

Item	School	Dist.	Township	Document	Dates	Teacher	Notes
Folder 5: Dale Township							
5.1	unknown		Dale	Teacher's Daily Register	Sep 1910- Apr 1913	Edythe Simmons, later Mrs. Oren Lowe	Two identified via teacher's names (one teacher; single & married names)
Folder 6: Fletcher							
6.1	Fletcher	4	Blue Mound	Common School Register	1882-1886	Alice Casey, E.A. Wroe, Geo B. Safford, Laura L. Furman, E. Hooten	Originally known at Pleasant View School
6.2	Fletcher	4	Blue Mound	Teacher's Daily Register	1897-1901	Margaret Wren, Katharine M. Kelley, Lucy Worley, Nellie A. Chaffant	
6.3	Fletcher	164	Blue Mound	Certificate for Fletcher School as officially recognized probationary elementary school	June 1946		
6.4	Fletcher	164	Blue Mound	"Names of Famous Pupils at Fletcher School Are Cited at Flag Ceremony," <i>Pantagraph</i> article	Oct 26, 1929		History of school, including Walter Dill Scott, President of Northwestern University
Folder 7: Garfield							
7.1	Garfield	142	Dry Grove	School Club packet with letters, poems, stories & notes detailing the Garfield School Club	1916-1934		
Folder 8: Hendryx							
8.1	Hendryx	1	Old Town	Teaching contract	Sep 1865	Otis B. Donnelly	

Item	School	Dist.	Township	Document	Dates	Teacher	Notes
Folder 9: Hinshaw							
9.1	Hinshaw	7 then 84		School Directors Record book	1865-1899	Minutes, financial records, etc. on 64pp	With index at front compiled by Milo Custer. Also known at Dowthett School and Old No. 7 and later Sunny Point School
Folder 10: Lone Star							
10.1	Lone Star	7	Padua / Dawson	Common School Register	Oct 1873- Oct 1879	M. Darwin Hull, Mary B. Weed, James G. English, Wilson H. Twogood, Mary H. Wight, John E. Wheeler, Ida M. Tavenner	Attendance records
Folder 11: Popejoy							
11.1	Popejoy	10	Lexington	Common School Schedule	May 1875	Chas Ballinger	
11.2	Popejoy	10	Lexington	Common School Schedule	May 1875	Chas A. Ballinger	
11.3	Popejoy	10	Lexington	Common School Schedule	Oct 1875	Chas A. Ballinger	
11.4	Popejoy	10	Lexington	Common School Schedule	Dec 1888	James C. Elvin	
11.5	Popejoy	10	Lexington	Common School Schedule	Jan 1889	J.C. Elvin	
11.6	Popejoy	210	Lexington	Common School Schedule	Oct 1902	Ethel Flesher	
11.7	Popejoy	210	Lexington	Common School Schedule	Nov 1902	Ethel Flesher	
11.8	Popejoy	210	Lexington	Common School Schedule	Feb 1903	Ethel Flesher	
11.9	Popejoy	210	Lexington	Common School Schedule	Apr 1903	Ethel Flesher	
11.10	Popejoy	210	Lexington	Common School Schedule	May 1903	Ethel Flesher	
11.11	Popejoy	210	Lexington	Common School Schedule	Jun 1903	Ethel Flesher	
11.12	Popejoy	210	Lexington	Common School Schedule	Jan 1904	Ethel Flesher	

Item	School	Dist.	Township	Document	Dates	Teacher	Notes
Folder 12: Randolph Twp							
12.1	Randolph Twp Schools		Randolph Twp	Mimeographed copies of transcriptions of deed records for Pleasant Valley, Center, Eldorado, Lytleville, Sparta, Fairview, Bloomingdale & Morgan Schools	Transcribed March 1949		Original transactions: 1855-1894
Folder 13: Smith's Grove							
13.1	Smith's Grove	156	Towanda	Common School Schedule	Oct 1918	Mrs. Leslie Sutter	
Folder 14: Stubblefield							
14.1	Stubblefield	4	Mt. Hope	Common School Schedule	Oct 1887	M.D. Crego	
14.2	Stubblefield	4	Mt. Hope	Certificate to Teachers' Schedule	Sep 1881	Mary D. Crego	
Folder 15: Empire & Downs Twp							
15.1	Empire & Downs Twp		Empire & Downs	Tax Cash Book	1872-1874		Fragile, one cover missing.

Box 2

Loose Items

- Illinois School District Record Book: Baker School House, Arrowsmith Township District 3, 1888-1900.
- District Record Book, School and Township Records (Including Ellsworth School and Padua Township; now called Dawson) Contains; Summaries of meetings and records from 1888 - 1919 of Lone Star School (Districts 7, 106) in Dawson Township
- Journal and Record Book, Saybrook School (Districts 5, 119), Cheney's Grove Township, Contains; Proceedings of Townships Trustees and summaries of meetings from 1874 – 1881 and Records of Bonds from March 21, 1879
- Cash and Loan Book (Township not indicated but likely Cheney's Grove Township) Contains; List of receipts and payments under township treasurer's cash book 1874 – 1881
- The Metropolitan Combined Attendance and Classification Register for Lone Oak School (Dawson Township) Contains; Records of Attendance, Record Standing, Daily Programs, Monthly Summaries, Visitor Records, Graduation lists, School Inventory dating 1921 – 1930, teachers; J. C. Builta, Frances Carlson
- Welch's School Register for Lone Oak School (Dawson Township), Contains; Records of Attendance, Honor Roll, Notable School Achievements, Visitor Records, and School Inventory Records, 1930 – 1936, teachers: Ella M. Shaw, Frances C. Draggers
- Welch's Attendance & Classification for Spaulding School (Dale Township). Contains attendance, grades, daily programs, individual promotions, etc., Sep 1918-May 1924. Teacher: Alice Williams who taught at Spaulding from 1914 until her retirement in 1949. Credited with founding the McLean County hot lunch program.