

**McLean County Museum of History**

**Baseball Collection**

Processed by  
JoAnna Mink  
Summer 2021

**Collection Information**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1857-2021
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 vertical files: Bloomington Colored Giants; Fans Field; Griffith, Clark; Radbourne, Charles ("Old Hoss")

## Brief History

A column in the October 20, 1857, issue of the *Pantagraph* suggested that it would be a good idea for some of the young men of Bloomington to form a baseball club. On May 22, 1865, the *Pantagraph* exclaimed, "We are glad to learn that our young men have concluded to form a Base Ball Club ... [for] manly exercise in a systematic manner." The City Directory of 1866 lists the Bloomington Base Ball Club, with Henry Ewing as President and C. R. Roe, as Secretary.

In subsequent years, baseball flourished in Bloomington, with several players going on to professional careers in the major league.

## Scope

This collection is comprised of newspaper clippings, mostly from local newspapers, tracing the evolution of Bloomington's baseball teams.

## Box and Folder Inventory

Note: All clippings are from *The Pantagraph*, unless noted otherwise.

### Folder 1: Formation and History

- 1.1 "Base Ball," June 20, 1857, first mention of baseball?
- 1.2 "Base Ball," October 20, 1857, call for young men of Bloomington to take up national game.
- 1.3 "Base Ball Club," May 22, 1865, formation of Base Ball Club.
- 1.4 "Base Ball," May 25, 1865, additional details on formation of Bloomington Base Ball Club (attached sheet contains city directory of information of the club officers).
- 1.5 Listing for "Bloomington Base Ball Club" in 1866 Bloomington City Directory.
- 1.6 "Base Ball," February 28, 1867, notice.
- 1.7 "Base Ball Players," April 10, 1867, Dalton, Dibble & Miller have received a lot of "Ross" balls.
- 1.8 "Bloomington's New Base Ball Club," *The Bulletin*, November 22, 1882.
- 1.9 "Base Ball," January 21, 1884, formation of Bloomington Reds.
- 1.10 "Base Ball Masquerade," *Daily Bulletin*, February 22, 1885, Bloomington Reds hold dance.
- 1.11 "Base Ball," *Daily Bulletin*, April 12, 1885, Bloomington Reds reorganized.
- 1.12 "Base Ball," *The Bulletin*, September 13, 1887, financial situation of Bloomington Reds.
- 1.13 "Base Ball," *The Bulletin*, December 12, 1888, Bloomington member of newly established Inter-State League.
- 1.14 "The New League," *The Bulletin*, December 13, 1888, news on new league.
- 1.15 "The League Formed," *Daily Bulletin*, December 14, 1888, news on new league.
- 1.16 "Talking Base Ball," *Normal Advocate*, January 26, 1895, news on signing of pitcher Frank Dillon; possible umpire career for barber George Green; Bloomington club entering new inter-state league, etc.

- 1.17 "Old Time Base Ball," April 15, 1896, overview of early baseball with 1855 roster of old Bloomington baseball club.
- 1.18 "Base Ball of Old: The Glories of the Sport Have Almost Vanished," *Daily Bulletin*, August 12, 1898.
- 1.19 "Revival of Indoor Baseball," November 8, 1901.
- 1.20 "Season Starts Today," March 6, 1917, start of commercial indoor baseball, includes schedule.
- 1.21 "Through the Years With Bloomington's Baseball Presidents," August 26, 1930.
- 1.22 "1884-Back in the Days of 1930" W.B. Read and Company ad in McLean County Centennial Edition, Aug 26, 1930.
- 1.23 "Bloomington Home of Many Famous Baseball Stars--Long Booster of National Game," April 8, 1936, Fred Young history of local baseball.
- 1.24 "Just Before Bill Connors Won Pennant at Old South Side Park," January 13, 1937, photograph of 1902(?) Bloomington Bloomers of the Illinois-Indiana-Iowa League.
- 1.25 "Young's Yarns," October 2, 1940, Fred Young column noting that Rev. Loyal Thompson of First Methodist Bloomington delivers a World Series sermon every year.
- 1.26 "When Father Sammon Played Ball" by James Hart, undated poem.
- 1.27 Comic card from Geo. Milford's Oyster House and Restaurant in St. Louis, undated, and advertisement for restaurant in *The Jewish Tribune* (St. Louis), September 10, 1880.
- 1.28 "Through the Years with Bloomington's Baseball Presidents," August 26, 1930.

## **Folder 2: Games--Local, League, Tournament**

- 2.1 "Base Ball," November 8, 1865, games between the married and unmarried men of the Bloomington Base Ball Club.
- 2.2 "Base Ball," September 6, 1866, undersigned "nine" challenge any local "Nine."
- 2.3 "The Tournament," September 18, 1866, tournament featuring clubs from Chicago, St. Louis, and Jacksonville.
- 2.4 "Base Ball," June 27, 1868, coverage of 57-19 game between the Atlantics of Brooklyn, NY (winners) and the Bloomington B.B.C.
- 2.5 "Base Ball--Match for the Junior Championship," *Daily Leader*, July 23, 1869, junior championship match between Liberty from Springfield and Star of Bloomington.
- 2.6 "Base Ball Match at the Orphans' Home," April 26, 1870, match between Normal club and Soldiers' and Sailors' Home.
- 2.7 "Base Ball Items," *Daily Leader*, August 30, 1876.
- 2.8 "A match game of ball..." July 19, 1880, contest between west side Blue Stockings and picked nine forced to finish beyond city limits; Radbourne as umpire.
- 2.9 "Ate Them Up," *Daily Bulletin*, August 21, 1887, 2pp, Bloomington Reds, led by pitcher Clark Griffith, defeat Chicago Reserves.
- 2.10 Partial of "Base Ball," *Daily Bulletin*, September 8, 1887, standings for Interstate League.
- 2.11 Ad in *Daily Leader* for game Milwaukee vs Bloomington, April 26, 1888.
- 2.12 "The Inter-State League Record," *Daily Bulletin*, June 3, 1888, standings and announcement of Woehner-financed ballpark.
- 2.13 "We're Giants Indeed," May 24, 1896, and "A Weakened Nine," May 25, 1896, both in *Daily Bulletin*, regarding exhibition game between African-American traveling tea Page Fence Giants and the Bloomington Pastimes.
- 2.14 "Colored Ball Players," May 25, 1896, about Page Fence Giants.

- 2.15 "Labor Unions Will Play Baseball," *Daily Bulletin*, May 13, 1904, planned game between the cigarmakers and boilermakers.
- 2.16 "Played at Coliseum," January 18, 1908, indoor game.
- 2.17 "Downs and S.O.H. in Fast Tie Game," November 21, 1908, game between Downs and the Soldiers' Orphans' Home.
- 2.18 "Longest Baseball Game," *The New York Times*, June 1, 1909, brief article on May 31, 1909, record-breaking 26-inning Three-I League game between the Bloomington Bloomers and Decatur Commodores.
- 2.19 "Bloomer Players in 1909 Game," July 21, 1968, photographs of players involved in May 31, 1909, 26-inning Three-1 League game between Bloomington and Decatur.
- 2.20 Ad: "See the famous 'Dizzy' and 'Daffy' Dean," St. Louis Cardinals vs. Bloomington Cardinals, Fans Field, May 26, 1935.
- 2.21 "Fitzgerald Cooksville Fixture," June 14, 1942, Fred Young column about Wilbur Fitzgerald, manager.
- 2.22 "Bloomington Club Gains 12-7 Victory, August 3, 1942, about The Royal Palms African-American club from Bloomington beating Beason.
- 2.23 Ad for game between the Chicago Colored Giants vs Eureka-Williams, May 29, 1948.
- 2.24 "New Ball Park Real Must Here," Fred Young, March 16, 1949, 2pp, Frank Will's reminiscence of local baseball scene and teams.
- 2.25 The Prairie Chickens Base Ball Club of McLean County - '19 Schedule, 2019, source unknown.
- 2.26 "Normal Federals Lose," July 16, 1919.
- 2.27 "Vintage at the Pony Fields . . ." email from Rbt D. Sampson about Long Squirrels vs Prairie Chickens in "Vintage baseball game"
- 2.28 Ad "Follow the Cubs baseball games" on WIOK, September 5, 1969.
- 2.29 "Minutemen take home 4th Place Trophy from State Finals," *Lexingtonian*, June 12, 2025.
- 2.30 'Ironmen finish 3rd in State Class 4 A Baseball Tournament,' *Normalite*, June 19, 2025.

**Folder 3: Ball Parks and Equipment**

- 3.1 Ad for opening of new baseball park, *Daily Bulletin*, June 10, 1887, game between the Clippers of Champaign vs Bloomington Reds.
- 3.2 "A Brilliant Opening," *Daily Bulletin*, June 15, 1887, coverage of first game at new park, Griffith pitched.
- 3.3 "Base Ball," *Daily Bulletin*, June 11, 1888, first game at Woehner park, box score of Bloomington-Decatur contest.
- 3.4 Advertisement for development of "Base Ball Grounds," November 30, 1892.
- 3.5 W. B. Read & Co. advertisement featuring baseballs, gloves, and bats, May 1, 1897.
- 3.6 Holder-Athey Hardware Co (Blm) advertisement for Reach catchers' mitt in Bloomington High School's *The Alumni Aegis*, 1906.
- 3.7 Advertisement for baseball goods, C. A. Fenn, 112 E. Front Street, Bloomington, *Daily Bulletin*, March 31, 1918.
- 3.8 "Just a Part of the Vast Crowd That Assembled Before Pantagraph's Board," October 11, 1926, photo and caption of crowd in front of electric "player-board" in order to follow the World Series.

- 3.9 Ad, "See the World Series Play by Play on The Pantagraph Magnetic Playerboard," October 5, 1929.
- 3.10 "An Echo From Sportsman's Park," October 3, 1931, photo and caption of crowd following World Series on *Pantagraph's* "magnetic player board."
- 3.11 "Remember When West Side Grounds Housed Ballyard?" December 23, 1950, reminiscence of west side grounds, including a young Clark Griffith attending a Providence Grays / Radbourne exhibition game in Bloomington.
- 3.12 Email from Ruth Cobb about baseball field at ISSCS, March 5, 2019, includes plat map for ISSCS and article "Grounds of I.S.O.H. Enlarged by State," *Pantagraph*, August 18, 1929, about the sale of that acreage, 3pp.

#### **Folder 4: Controversies**

- 4.1 "Ball Playing on the Square," May 6, 1867.
- 4.2 "City Ordinance," May 11, 1867, City Council declares ball playing on the Square or public streets is a nuisance.
- 4.3 Partial of City council meeting regarding ball playing in school yards, May 23, 1867.
- 4.4 "Base Ball vs City Council," May 25, 1867
- 4.5 "Somebody ...," November 2, 1870, the sport draws in the *Leader*.
- 4.6 "A Crooked Game," September 2, 1876, newspaper implicates several Bloomington players, including Charles "Old Hoss" Radbourn, in throwing game against Springfield.
- 4.7 "Base Ball: The Flouting Evidence on the Crooked Game of Friday," September 4, 1876, additional evidence regarding crooked game.
- 4.8 "Patrons Left the Grounds," July 19, 1899, people left after six innings of "a disgusting exhibition of treachery" by catcher George Andrews.
- 4.9 "The Boy are All Right," July 31, 1889, criticism of Normal club.
- 4.10 "No More Ball Games on the Withers Lot," May 29, 1909.

#### **Folder 5: Individual Players**

- 5.1 List of Major League Baseball Players Raised in McLean County," 4pp.
- 5.2 Typescript of notice Charles Radbourne received letter from the Buffalo Base Ball Club to return, *Daily Leader*, July 6, 1880.
- 5.3 "Mr. Cliff Carroll" has returned to the city, *Daily Leader*, January 8, 1881.
- 5.4 "It was 'Sue' Allin," February 25, 1886, Sewell Allin killed by Kansas City policeman while beating the officer.
- 5.5 "Wants Cliff Carroll," January 2, 1893
- 5.6 Untitled, *Normal Advocate*, August 11, 1894. Frank Dillon professional at Peoria club.
- 5.7 "Base Ball Briefs," *Daily Leader*, February 21, 1895, notice on Charles Radbourne and Cliff Carroll.
- 5.8 Scan of photograph of 13 III League members, 1905.
- 5.9 "Jack Powell is Missing," May 2, 1906, regarding the former Bloomington resident and big leaguer.
- 5.10 "Art, Wilson Put Bloomington on Map," July 3, 1911, article on big leaguer Arthur Wilson, who played for the Three-I League Bloomington Bloomers.
- 5.11 "Chief Bluejacket on the Indiana, *Daily Bulletin*, April 14, 1913, Major League pitcher (former Bloomington Bloomer in the Three-I League) on the "injustice done his race" (Bluejacket was Native American).

- 5.12 “Walter ‘Jim’ Lambrecht, South Hill Product, Purchased By The St. Louis National Club,” *Daily Bulletin*, August 1, 1919.
- 5.13 “Death Brings to Close Career of Great Bloomington Hurler,” July 3, 1934, obituary for Eugene “King” McGreevy.
- 5.14 “1935 Bloomers Would Bring \$150,000 in Open Market,” November 9, 1937, article and photograph, Burleigh Grimes returns to Bloomington for visit.
- 5.15 “Edward W. Kinsella,” April 3, 1938, obituary for Edward W. Kinsella, former big leaguer from McLean County.
- 5.16 “Headed East,” March 14, 1943, photo of Bill Conroy and family, soon headed to Boston.
- 5.17 Jim Cox (Bloomington High School senior) illustration by Hutchinson, May 26, 1968.
- 5.18 “Where Have You Gone ... John Neal,” July 13, 1997, retrospective about professional career of Bloomingtonian John Neal, by Roger Cushman.
- 5.19 “Beaver Tales: Blackburn’s One-Armed Athlete,” article about Robert Allison, who played for Blackburn College in Carlinville. He later attended Illinois State University and earned a law degree from Illinois Wesleyan University, source and date unknown.
- 5.20 City directory listings for big leaguer Samuel Clifford Carroll, who played with Radbourne.
- 5.21 Email to Bill Kemp from Roger Cushman with additional Fred Young remembrances, September 24, 2007.
- 5.22 Email to Bill Kemp from Bob Sampson, with citation for book in which there is one reference to Bloomington, describing ladies rooting for handsome players on the visiting team in 1866 tourney, July 5, 2008.
- 5.23 Email to Bill Kemp from Richard Tourangeau (Boston, Massachusetts) in response to Kemp’s article about Cliff Carroll, March 2, 2021.
- 5.24 Email & photo scans of postcard featuring solitary black man in unspecified baseball uniform, early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Sep 2022. 3 sheets.
- 5.25 “Redbird duo makes big league splash in Minnesota,” in *STATE: Magazine of Illinois State University*, Fall 2023, pp6-7. Pitchers Brock Stewart and Brent Headrick of Minnesota Twins professional team.
- 5.26 “Death of a Former Big League Player,” *Lexingtonian*, Jun 13, 2024. Plus year by year minor league assignments for Noah Henline.

**Folder 6: Miller Scorecards**

- 6.1 Gift agreement indicating these scorecards were collected by Betty Hileman Stengel Miller, donated by Sandra Stengel, November 2021.
- 6.2 Chicago Cubs vs St. Louis Cardinals, 1969.
- 6.3 Chicago Cubs vs St. Louis Cardinals, 1974.
- 6.4 Chicago Cubs vs St. Louis Cardinals, May 4, 1975.
- 6.5 Chicago Cubs vs St. Louis Cardinals, July 31, 1976.
- 6.6 Chicago Cubs vs St. Louis Cardinals, July 1977.
- 6.7 Chicago Cubs vs St. Louis Cardinals, 1980.

**Folder 7: Miscellaneous**

- 7.1 Municipal Base Ball League 1944 season booklet. Includes officers, schedule, rules & regulations, & ads. Plus copy of associated gift agreement, 2001.

- 7.2 Bloomington “Muni-League” list of names taken from traveling batting trophy from 1941-1961.
- 7.3 Ticket for Chicago Cubs Caravan, January 17, 1992, sponsored by Bloomington-Normal Sister Cities Committee.
- 7.4 1995 program for Twin City Stars including season schedule, info on players and managers and more, 26pp. Founded by Duffy Bass in 1982, Stars were an amateur team in Central Illinois Collegiate League.
- 7.5 Email from Maroa-Forsyth School District archive about film of a Rogers Hornsby baseball camp held in Bloomington in 1946. (Contact school if desired.)
- 7.6 Publicity card for Rbt D. Sampson talk on “Ballists, Dead Beats, and Muffins: Inside Early Baseball in Illinois,” August 2023.

**Folder 8: Fastpitch Softball History**

- 8.1 “Playground Baseball,” a two-part series of illustrated history of local baseball by Larry D. Carius, Apr & Jun 1980, in *Bloomington Normal Magazine*.

**Folder 9: Contracts**

- 9.1 National Assn of Professional Base Ball League Uniform Player’s Contract between Bloomington B.B. Club and E.F. Marcks of Chicago, April 1922. 4pp. Three-I League.

**Folder 10: American Legion**

- 10.1 Souvenir Program, American Legion Jr. Baseball, Davis Post #56, 1969 (scanned color print).

**Folder 11: Bloomington Bobcats**

- 11.1 Program, 1974, 8 pp.

**Folder 12: Twin City Stars**

*Founded by Duffy Bass in 1982, Stars were an amateur team in Central Illinois Collegiate League.*

- 12.1 Program, 1995, 26pp.
- 12.2 Program, 1998, 30 pp.

**Folder 13: Who’s Who in the Major Leagues, 1940**

- 13.1 Eighth addition, 125 pp.