

McLean County Museum of History

Frank L. Breen Collection

Processed by Torii Moré
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Updated by Carol Straka
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	2 boxes (B&A)
COLLECTION DATES:	1842-1979
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 East Bay Camp Collection, Western Avenue Community Center Collection and various photographs. Documents in Folders 15 thru 30 were primarily donated by Brian, Ruth and Susan Trower in 2021. Nancy Breen Gordon contributed materials about Thelma Breen and Frank in August 2025.

Brief History

Rev. Frank L. Breen (1886-1967) was a prominent local Protestant minister in Bloomington. He was responsible for organizing East Bay Camp on the shores of Lake Bloomington, Western Avenue Community Center on Bloomington's west side, as well as many additional public service projects. Breen was born at Lanark, Carroll County, IL, in July 1886, and came to Bloomington in 1920.

Breen helped organize the Western Avenue Community Center in 1926 and became full-time director in 1931. When many families were without means during the Great Depression, this center, located on the working-class west side of Bloomington, offered much-needed recreational activities.

He was the first director of East Bay Camp, established in 1933 and located on Lake Bloomington, a manmade body of water ten miles north of Bloomington-Normal. The first permanent buildings were

built by campers, parents, and friends. Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, and YWCA members all contributed labor and funding for the buildings. When denominational groups began developing church youth camps in the 1930s, their search for adequate facilities brought them to East Bay. Every major church in the state had part of its regular camping program at East Bay each summer. At East Bay, Frank Breen was known simply as “Kim,” named after his favorite Rudyard Kipling novel.

School of Living (SoL): In 1934, Ralph Bordoski founded the School of Living (SoL) with artists, craftsmen, and teachers demonstrating how to live a de-centralized, self-sufficient life in the country in upstate New York. This included homesteading, organic gardening, nutrition, healthful living, decentralist economics, community living, and more. Mildred Jensen Loomis joined Borodski shortly after he began and is regarded as a co-founder. Breen, Carl Vrooman, et al, developed a Bloomington-Normal chapter of SoL in late 1951. Vrooman had previously been active in the national organization. East Bay Camp hosted a national decentralist conference in 1946 and a national School of Living conference in 1951.

Melbourne Village was founded in 1946 by three women who moved from Ohio to create a self-sufficient community of homesteaders. The women who initiated this endeavor included Virginia Wood, Margaret Hutchinson, and Dr. Elizabeth Nutting. They formed a not-for-profit corporation called The American Homesteading Foundation (AHF), purchased ranch land, and divided it into large lots between 1/3 and 3 acres, with winding roads, and parkland. To make sure that all property owners shared their vision they required buyers to become members of the AHF and subscribe to its By-Laws. Their early vision included members sharing resources, bartering with one another, and engaging in productive enterprises. By the 2020s, AHF membership was voluntary and the AHF still managed the 52 acres of parklands and the communal facilities plus provided social events.

In 1949, a local SoL organization was established at Melbourne Village intending to make it an education-centered community. Initial interest faded within a few years and many villagers resisted the SoL thrust. The Melbourne Village SoL was dissolved in 1952.

Frank and Thelma Breen built a home in the Village in 1952-1953 for their own winter visits as well as for members of the church. They planned to retire there eventually, although they instead retired to Lake Bloomington. Several Bloomington people also had homes in Melbourne Village.

In 1940-1941, Breen oversaw the development of five modest homes at 1001-1009 North Western Avenue in Bloomington. The homes were built for and by members of the congregation. Frank and Thelma Breen later lived in one of the homes for many years.

After World War II, banker Grover Helm asked Breen to participate in the Veterans Home Builders. The group assisted veterans in building affordable homes despite material shortages and rampant inflation.

In 1932, Breen was the recipient of the first *Daily Pantagraph* Community Betterment Scroll. He was director of the Western Avenue Center until 1956, when he retired to devote all his time to East Bay Camp. He died at Brokaw Hospital, Normal, on 13 November 1967.

Breen married Thelma Van Ness (1900-1979) in 1945 (he had been married once before, to Flora J. Giles in 1908, but she died in March 1927). Thelma Breen was a graduate of Illinois Wesleyan University and the University of Illinois Library School. She also studied at Columbia University and worked in the New York Public Library system on Long Island. Once in Illinois, Thelma worked for McLean Township Library back when the library was housed in the back room of a barbershop. In 1923 she began working at Withers Public Library (Bloomington’s public library), and in 1941 she became head

librarian. She held this post until she retired in 1972. Thelma helped found Western Avenue Church and East Bay Camp with her husband.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Obituaries

- 1.1 "Thelma Breen, ex-librarian, dies" in *The Pantagraph* Thursday, 2 August 1979
- 1.2 "Rev. Breen, Easy Bay Camp Founder, Dies" in *The Pantagraph* 15 November 1967

Folder 2: Veterans Home Building

Correspondence unless otherwise noted

- 2.1 Grover C. Helm letter to Frank Breen soliciting his help getting small homes built for returning veterans, 19 Dec 1945.
- 2.2 Nine index card listing property lots, tradesmen, aggregate supplier, GI loan rates, and couples for "Supplemental Living," nd.
- 2.3 Receipts: Modahl & Scott for cement and aggregate; Green Wells Inc for automotive work.
- 2.4 Building Permit & application for 303 Maizefield Avenue, Bloomington, for a 5 room, one-story single-family frame dwelling without garage or basement, 12 Dec 1945. Issued to Breen.
- 2.5 Note from ECS to Breen about the work to the truck, 9 Jan 1946.
- 2.6 Nine timesheets for #1 House at 303 Maizefield listing hours and wage payable for workers Paul Lee, Don Hager, Wilbur Dibble, Hugo Kempin, Dec 1945-Mar 1946.
- 2.7 Pro-forma World War II Veteran's Stoddard Contract, 2pp, not executed. Bela M. Stoddard, a WWI veteran of Monticello IL, selling a lot to WWII veteran for \$175, 1946. 2pp.
- 2.8 Wm T. Beadles, Price Panel Chairman in Bloomington, to Federal Housing Authorities in Peoria seeking info on how to get priority for home construction material for veterans working with a non-for-profit organization, 11 Jan 1946.
- 2.9 Quote from Home Electric Co in Bloomington for wiring of a GI house, 25 Jan 1946.
- 2.10 Quote from Edw. A Larson Roofing and Sheet Metal Contractor in Bloomington to Breen to install warm air furnace and downspouts, etc., 25 Jan 1946. Attached spec sheet on cast iron pipe furnace.
- 2.11 Copy of L.F. Shepard to Gunnison Homes Inc in New Albany, IN, seeking further info about purchasing 16 homes for veterans in Bloomington, 29 Jan 1946.
- 2.12 Copy of Edgar Lundeen of Lundeen and Hilfinger Architects in Bloomington to West Side Lumber and Coal Co about increase in price for set of plans for each G.I. house constructed, 6 Mar 1946.
- 2.13 Quote from Apfield-Grohne Concrete Products Co. in Bloomington to Breen, 18 Mar 1946.
- 2.14 Copy of Breen to Arthur Adams in Bloomington about Williams Oil O Matic invoices, carpentry work and costs, plumbing work to be completed and invoiced, 24 Apr 1946.
- 2.15 Typed plaster bid from Rhodes-Rodier Co in Springfield, 18 Jan 1946.
- 2.16 Typed Cost Analysis for paving brick and lite weight block, 29 Jan 1946.

Folder 3: Breen Residences

- 3.1 List of attendees for meetings, 5 pgs
- 3.2 Specifications of Labor and Materials for the Rev. Frank Breen Residences, Bloomington, Illinois, by Lundeen and Hilfinger, Architects, October 1940.
- 3.3 Draft agreement with markups for cooperative project of building five houses, 1940. 2pp.
- 3.4 Agreement between Frank L. Breen and Paul Lee, William Thomas, Virgil Baird, Clifford Bowman, and Donald Breen to construct 5 houses on land owned by Frank Breen in Didlakes Addition to Bloomington, 18 November 1940.
- 3.5 Correspondence from US Treasury Dept's Edna Lonigan to Frank Breen regarding the sending of published material on behalf of Dr. Tippy, 15 Nov 1939..
- 3.6 Correspondence from Waylite Company of Chicago to West Side Coal & Lumber Co. in Bloomington about the process of filling Waylite walls, 11 Dec 1940.

Folder 4: News Clippings

- 4.1 "Frank Breen Gets Earned Recognition" 1955 in *The Pantagraph* (2 copies)
- 4.2 "Breen's Works in Behalf of Community Extolled" in *The Daily Pantagraph* 29 May 1963
- 4.3 "Site for Medical Structure Bought" in *The Daily Pantagraph* Sunday, 3 February 1930
- 4.4 "Center Will Review Decade of Service" in *The Daily Pantagraph* 7 December 1938
- 4.5 Photograph in newspaper of some of the 150 who attended Friendship Camp at Lake Webster, Ind. Photograph shows Carl Vrooman, who gave a course of lectures, and Rev. Frank Breen who helped organize the camp
- 4.6 Photograph in newspaper of East Bay Camp associates. In photo are Miss Thelma Van Ness, Carl Vrooman, Rev. Frank L. Breen, Mrs. Hazle B. Ewing, Miss Vera Snow, B.F. Hiltabrand, and Mrs. Raymond Baldwin.
- 4.7 1 page of photographs of East Bay Camp, in *The Pantagraph* Sunday, 27 June 1937
- 4.8 "Speakers Praise Work of Canter and Director" date and newspaper unknown (2 copies)
- 4.9 "Mrs. Walter Brandt, Frank Breen Honored" in *The Daily Pantagraph*, 13 January 1937

Folder 5: Friendship Circle

- 5.1 Lists of names: Congregational Friendship Circle 1926-1927, 1 page; Friendship Circle 1927-1928, 1 page; undated list, 4 pages; "Young People" September 1928, 4 pages; alphabetical list, 21 pages; list of addresses, 1 page; list of Friendship Choir members 4 pages, undated.
- 5.2 Brochure: A Real Vacation in Dune Land- Friendship Camp at Tower Hill departing from Bloomington, 1927
- 5.3 Western Avenue Boy Scouts- Towanda list
- 5.4 Pledges received October 12, 1928, Friendship Campers
- 5.5 The Friendship Call- Friendship Circle Camp Reunion, East Bay Camp 5-7 September 1931
- 5.6 3 December 1931. Letter to Members of Friendship Circle from the Building Committee (Harrold Wilson, "Andy" Washburn Lillian Nichols and Grace Evans) regarding building a cabin at East Bay Camp.

- 5.7 Informational sheet regarding the Friendship Reunion on Friday, December 30th, at Western Avenue Community Center (2pgs)
- 5.8 "To Relive the Old Days" schedule of events for home-coming January 1-3rd

Folder 6: School Letters

- 6.1 35 letters to principals of high schools in Illinois regarding barter for college education, Jun-Jul 1933.

Folder 7: Barter & Exchange Workman's Records

- 7.1 Nine job cards specifying name, address, work desired, date needed, materials required, date began and ended, and the customer's O.K. Summer 1933.

Folder 8: Depression Era Scrip

- 8.1 6 scrip dollars from Barter & Exchange Inc. Bloomington IL, each with various numbers of stamps on the back. Dated 24 January, year illegible, 27 May 1933, 1 date too light to read, and 3 are undated.

Folder 9: Barter & Exchange Scrip Reports

- 9.1 68 reports specifying name, amount of scrip on hand, methods of disposal, condition of scrip, average number of stamps, and date of issuance

Folder 10: Self-Help Publications

- 10.1 Washington Self-Help Exchange booklet, July 1937-December 1938
- 10.2 The Self-Helper, Volume 2, No.1. January 1939.

Folder 11: Memorabilia

- 11.1 Account book of Mrs. Amy Giles of 503 W. Jefferson for My Store (furniture insurance).
- 11.2 Big May-Time Programme Winnetka Camp Fire Girls at Chebanse, IL, 7 May 1919.
- 11.3 Program for McLean Eighth Grade Commencement, Thursday, 19 May 1921 (2 copies). Graduates include William Van Ness.
- 11.4 Program for Normal Community High School Commencement, Friday, 27 May 1960
- 11.5 The Pullman Company Passenger's Check. Tourist Car Kansas City to Los Angeles
- 11.6 Vehicle Registration Card for Barter and Exchange, 1933
- 11.7 Synopsis of the Law of Illinois relating to Motor Vehicles booklet
- 11.8 Invitation to Normal High School Commencement 1905
- 11.9 5 November 1932. Letter to Mr. E. Kletz, Proprietor, Kletz Nursery, from Alton Athletic Association regarding Miss Glenna Burnsmier winning \$2.50 worth of nursery stock

Folder 12: Religious Memorabilia

- 12.1 February 1943. Second Presbyterian Church historical outline (2 copies)
- 12.2 April 1943. The Second Presbyterian Church morning worship program
- 12.3 1916. The Nineteenth Annual Report of the First Congregational Church, Seatonville, Illinois.

- 12.4 9 May 1926. First Congregational Church, Bloomington, Illinois, worship service program
- 12.5 22 April 1937. Christian Science Monitor Coronation Color Section
- 12.6 June 1942 Second Presbyterian Church Sunday worship program
- 12.7 9 May 1926 First Congregational Church service program
- 12.8 Booklet: "A Heart to Heart Talk Concerning the New Life," by Walter Spooner of State Evangelist Congregation Conference of Illinois, nd.

Folder 13: Miscellaneous

- 13.1 "Lines to I.A.I" poem signed by Sarah at West Newton, July 1842, 3 pages.
- 13.2 Copy of contract between John & Mary A. Gregory and Trustees of the Buck Creek Christian Chapel conveying land in Gridley Township for \$1, June 1893. 2pp.
- 13.3 Reminiscence about Thelma Breen by Jon L. Breen, 2019. 2 pp.
- 13.4 List of Breen donations to the Museum from Brian, Ruth and Susan Trower, July 2021.

Folder 14: School of Living (SoL) 1939-1948

Correspondence, meeting flyers, etc.

- 14.1 Typed list of Decentralists across the country, nd.
- 14.2 Mrs. Borsodi of SoL in Suffern, NY, to Breen about SoL Extension Division process to help organize a new local unit with young married who wish to own their own homes, 21 June 1939. Attached a large brochure "Announcing a New and Modern Approach to Specific Problems in Economics and Home Economics, Sociology" listing bulletins, bibliography, etc.
- 14.3 Group of correspondence starting with typed copy to Craft Division of SoL in NY about learning loom weaving at East Bay Camp, requesting guidance on which loom model to order, subscribing to SoL newsletter, inquiring about building affordable homes, etc., 25 Sep 1940. Group includes further correspondence thru 29 Oct 1940, on loom order, order for bulletins, list of weaving & dyeing literature and suppliers, list of bulletins available.
- 14.4 Copy: to Mildred Loomis in OH from Breen about upcoming trip to Dayton, 5-house project in Bloomington, possible weaving & homecrafts demonstration, 26 Nov 1941.
- 14.5 Handwritten note on topics at SoL Center by day, nd.
- 14.6 "Rural Churchmen Air Their Views," clipping from *Protestant Voice*, 26 Jan 1942.
- 14.7 Typed copy of "The Valley of Democracy Folk Festival" in Nerom, In, 12-14 Feb 1941. General description during preliminary planning, including advisory committee, etc.
- 14.8 Four typed postcards from Mildred Jensen Loomis in OH to Breen on plans for homemaking institute and appropriate newsletters of interest, Aug-Oct 1942.
- 14.9 Mildred Jensen Loomis in OH to Breen about travel arrangements for herself and husband John, obtaining SoL bulletins, other preparations including a curriculum vitae, 9 Sep 1942.
- 14.10 Copy of Breen to Robert Toms of SoL in NY about plans for seminar at East Bay Camp in the fall, related date of decentralist group meeting, hopes to establish local branch of SoL, 24 Jun 1946.

- 14.11 Copy of Breen to Dr M.D. McLean at Lincoln (IL) College about recent exchanges with Dr. Arthur Morgan on community planning and inviting McLean to visit East Bay Camp, 25 Jun 1946. Plus McLean's reply about obtaining faculty members for his college and hoping to visit East Bay Camp soon, 2 Jul 1946.
- 14.12 Copy of Breen to Borsodi in NY about Breen's recent visit east and details of the upcoming Decentralist group meeting and following seminar, 25 Jun 1946.
- 14.13 Copy of Breen to Mrs. Loomis about newspaper coverage of the upcoming seminar, 7 Jul 1946.
- 14.14 Copy of Breen to Dr. McLean to arrange a meeting, 19 Dec 1946.
- 14.15 Copy of Breen to Marin Alford in St. Louis about Bitudobe inquiry, Mary Alford's improved health, possibility of the Alford joining East Bay Camp summer staff, 24 Feb 1947.
- 14.16 Mildred Loomis to Clay Tate, Breen, & Frank Larson about details of proposed SoL seminar at Bloomington including postponement due to Mrs. Borsodi's health crisis, enclosing brochure about the Institute, 4 Mar 1947. *See Folder 30 for the brochure that was presumably enclosed.*
- 14.17 Copy of Breen's reply to above acknowledging that Mr. Borsodi should continue to focus on his book writing and delay the seminar until another year, 5 Mar 1947.

Folder 15: School of Living (SoL) Jan 1949-Aug 1951

Correspondence, meeting flyers, etc.

- 15.1 Copy of Breen to Mildred Loomis expressing concern about the possible end of the OH homestead and relocation elsewhere, 19 Apr 1948.
- 15.2 Parsons College (IA) President Tom Shearer to Breen about decentralization work at the college and wishing to learn more of work in Bloomington, 21 Feb 1949.
- 15.3 Copy of Breen to Tom Sharer of Parsons College explaining that limited action has been taken in Bloomington, welcoming a visit, and *Pantagraph* coverage of University of Illinois program to strengthen village life locally, 26 Feb 1949
- 15.4 Tom Shearer of Parsons College to Breen about future possibility of honorary degree for Clay Tate, cancellation of planned conference, and invitation to commencement, 16 May 1949.
- 15.5 Copy of Breen to Tom Shearer at Parsons College expressing relief at conference cancellation and inability to attend commencement due to other commitments, 21 May 1949.
- 15.6 Copy of Breen to Hilton Wend in NH about Wend's possible visit to conference in Bloomington area, 4 May 1949.
- 15.7 Mildred Loomis to Frank Larson & Frank Breen advising Borsodi's presence in Chicago in June and asking to schedule a two-week seminar on the Thirteen Problems of Living for this autumn, Borsodi's low spirits, local groups at work, 14 May 1949. Plus postcard from Mildred requesting a short statement on the next steps to be published in next *The Interpreter*, 15 May 1949.
- 15.8 Copy of Breen to Loomis advising that Frank Larson will reply about possible seminar and declining to write for *The Interpreter* sharing that he prefers "direct help" action over theory, 21 May 1949.
- 15.9 Program for "Religion in Life Week" at Parsons College, 14-17 Mar 1950. 3 copies.

- 15.10 Copy of Breen to Tom Shearer at Parsons College about Breen's recent visit to campus during Religion in Life week, discussion with Chaplin Robertson, 26 Mar 1950.
- 15.11 Tom Shearer to Breen about Breen's contribution to Religion in Life week and hopes for visit to Bloomington, 20 Mar 1950.
- 15.12 James Robertson at Parsons College to Breen about visit from "The girls" and plans to come to Bloomington, 7 Jun 1950.
- 15.13 Mildred Loomis in OH to Breen about recent meeting of SoL and suggesting a national conference next summer at East Bay, 5 Dec 1950.
- 15.14 Copy of Breen to Mildred Loomis at OH about Melbourne discussion with Borsodi & Virginia Wood about a September date for the East Bay Camp conference, Loomis' reaction to the Village, 6 Mar 1951.
- 15.15 Ralph Borsodi (via Ruth H. Weise) at Melbourne, FL to Breen about forthcoming lecture tour in north central states, 6 Feb 1951. Plus 2 mimeographed sheets on the topic & speaker. And, brochure on Jonathan E. Forman public address on "Man and His Environment – Build, or Repair"
- 15.16 Ralph Borsodi to Breen about conference dates and organizing locals, 9 Mar 1951.
- 15.17 Copy of Breen to Mildred Loomis about a conference date, 4 Apr 1951.
- 15.18 Ralph Borsodi to Breen about itinerary, visit to Bloomington, conference dates, developments in Melbourne Village, 20 Mar 1951.
- 15.19 Copy of Breen to Ralph Borsodi about cooperation amongst Melbourne Village folk, conference arrangements including its focus, 27 Mar 1951.
- 15.20 Borsodi to Breen about planning Bloomington visits, community betterment conferences and Clay Tate, focus of national conference in Bloomington, 31 Mar 1951.
- 15.21 Copy of Breen to Borsodi about conference date at East Bay Camp, 4 Apr 1951.
- 15.22 Copy of revised itinerary from Apr 2 thru May 10, presumably for Borsodi
- 15.23 Postcard: Mildred Loomis to Breen about August conference, 22 May 1951.
- 15.24 Copy of Breen to Tom Shearer at Parsons College about coming to Bloomington to review exploration of independent living possibilities that will set the stage for the national workshop, 7 Aug 1951.

Folder 16: School of Living (SoL) Aug-Sep 1951

Correspondence, meeting flyers, etc.

- 16.1 Copy of Breen to J.S. Schrock of Schrock Fertilizer Co in Congerville about creating a council group for those interested in country living, upcoming meeting at East Bay Camp, 2 Aug 1951.
- 16.2 J.B. Schrock to Breen trusting that Mr. Cross represented him well at East Bay Camp meeting and enclosing a ad on "Have-more Plans" 4 Sep 1951. Plus the ad for one acre living.
- 16.3 Copy of Breen to J.B. Schrock appreciating Mr. Cross' participation in recent area workshop at East Bay, Congerville visit to see cut-over-land pasture, obtaining the "Have-More" books, engagement of Rev. Yoder, 24 Sep 1951.
- 16.4 Robert D. Morris of Episcopal Hospital in Philadelphia to Breen about medical events preventing his attendance, possibility for a demonstration like the Peckham experiment, and hoping to come to Bloomington later, 5 Sep 1951.

- 16.5 Copy of Breen to Robert D. Morris at Episcopal Hospital about the impression Morris made on Clay Tate, facilities of East Bay Camp for a Peckham type experiment, 9 Aug 1951.
- 16.6 Robert D. Morris at Episcopal Hospital to Breen summarizing conclusions after recent meeting and alternate possibilities, 8 Oct 1951.
- 16.7 Mary Sharp at Middletown, VA, to Breen about travel to Bloomington, 30 Aug 1951.
- 16.8 Postcard: M J Loomis to Eliz Weir/Breen requesting records from Conference Sound Scribe, 23 Oct 1951.
- 16.9 Postcard: Mildred Loomis to Breen about Borsodi's improved health, etc. 14 Jan 1952.
- 16.10 Card: Margaret Normile in FL about Ken Kern visit & his home address in CA, 9 Apr 1952.
- 16.11 Ollie E. Fink of Friends of the Land in OH to Breen about Vincent Schaub's article, reports on economics of tomatoes and beans, etc. 13 Sep 1951.
- 16.12 Copy of Breen to Ollie Fink at Friends of the Land, considering possibility for cooperation, etc. 24 Sept 1951.
- 16.13 Copy of Ollie Fink at Friends of the Land to Schrock Fertilizer Co in Congerville asking more about Schrock's role in re-establishing Vincent Schaub farm and possibly publishing article by Friends of the Land, 13 Sep 1951.
- 16.14 Copy of J.B. Schrock to Ollie E Fink about Vincent Schaub and Roy Roof farms, the Schrock Fertilizer Co., and its history and products and services, 2 Oct 1951. 4 pp.
- 16.15 Copy of Breen to Joseph B. Schrock in Congerville thanking him for a copy of recent letter to Fink, etc., 4 Oct 1951.
- 16.16 Ollie Fink (via secretary Hazel Knight) to Breen sending Friends of the Land literature and newsletters (not enclosed), 2 Nov 1951.
- 16.17 (Congerville) Community Improvement Committee – Introduction and Background to the Summarized Report, by J.B. Schrock 21 Sep 1951. 3pp. Plus Summary Report of Improvements Committee for 1945-1951 5pp. Plus Minutes 21 Sep 1951 by R.M. Yoder. 1p.
- 16.18 Ruby B. Gardiner to M/M Breen thanking them for helping her at conference, 21 Sep 1951. Plus letter asking a set of photo prints from tour of homestead, 12 Dec 1951.
- 16.19 Lilla Russell of London to Mrs. Spenser Ewing of Bloomington advising that Peckham Experiment has closed due to lack of funds but the physicians involved are still assessing results and that Dr. Williamson will share results with Breen, attending recent ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World) conference in Edinburgh, etc., 3 Oct 1951.

Folder 17: School of Living (SoL) Oct-Dec 1951

Correspondence, meeting flyers, etc.

- 17.1 Flyer: SoL: 1 Nov 1951 meeting agenda at Western Avenue Community Center and info.
- 17.2 Brief SoL agenda at Western Avenue Community Center, 1 Nov 1951.
- 17.3 Flyer: What Is the School of Living???? 2 copies, nd. Presumably used at Oct 1951 meeting.
- 17.4 Recipe for Mrs. Vrooman's Whole Wheat Bread and for Candied (Orange) Peel, nd.
- 17.5 "Living School' Potluck Dinner, Talks Friday" *Pantagraph*, 27 Oct 1951.

- 17.6 H.E. Wimer of Hocomo, MO, to Breen enclosing snapshots of house and neighboring farms, etc., 29 Oct 1951.
- 17.7 Copy of Breen to "Friends" after SoL meeting on Nov 1 in which Wimer's photos and info was basis for discussion, 1 Dec 1951.
- 17.8 H.E. & Leona Wimer to Breen acknowledging Christmas greeting and inviting Breen to keep the photos, 29 Dec 1951.
- 17.9 Eight photos with notes and captions from Wimer, 1951.
- 17.10 H.E. & Leona Wimer to Breen updating on progress at their homestead and availability of nearby farm, etc. 26 Dec 1951.
- 17.11 National Council for Community Improvement at St. Louis to Breen enclosing literature about the organization and citing its similarity in objectives, 20 Nov 1951.
- 17.12 Flyer: SoL "The Consideration of Better Plans for Better Living" by Clyde W. Hudleson of ISNU, 6 Dec 1951.
- 17.13 "Gardening," a history by M/M Edward Timler of Normal, nd but covers 1951 experiences and financials in home and market gardening. 2pp.
- 17.14 "A Hobby That Pays" Bee Keeping -a Record for 14 Year by Mr. Fred Miller of Normal. Covers financials of 1937-1951.
- 17.15 Mary Sharp of Middletown, Va to Breen about she & husband's decentralist work and viability of area for other homesteaders, 10 Dec 1951.
- 17.16 Copy of Breen to Mary Sharp about the conference at East Bay and disappointment at work left undone there, requesting info about progress in Sharp's area, 27 Nov 1951.
- 17.17 Copy of Breen to Michael Corrigan of SoL in Melbourne, FL, asking that he send info on the *Interpreter* and Borsodi's book to Mennonite minister Rev. R.M. Yoder of Congerville, 7 Dec 1951.
- 17.18 Copy of Breen to Frank Larson in Carlock regretting Larson's illness & departure at SoL meeting, anticipating executive meeting soon, etc., 8 Dec 1951.
- 17.19 Copy of Breen to Richard Bishop in Chicago responding to *Interpreter* inquiry about local SoL and homesteading opportunities, 11 Dec 1951.
- 17.20 Mildred Loomis to Breen (CC: Frank Larson) about recent large SoL meeting in OH, Sam R. House of IN volunteering to speak in Bloomington about rammed earth housing, future national meeting next summer, etc., 16 Dec 1951.
- 17.21 Copy of Breen to Mildred Loomis about location of next national meeting, etc., 4 Jan 1952.
- 17.22 Suggested Tentative Plan for Community Clinic or Forum on Major Problems of Living by M.J. Lewis, proposing holding forums in several communities with particulars on locations, topics, and leaders, 21 Dec 1951.
- 17.23 Invoice from SoL at Melbourne to Breen for book *Flight From the City* by Borsodi, 20 Dec 1951.
- 17.24 Copy of Corrigan to Yoder in Congerville about Congerville Community Improvement Committee report, plans and materials for local study group, 12 Dec 1951.
- 17.25 Jeffrey Manufacturing Co. of Columbus, OH, to Breen about mill for grinding cereal, attaching brochure, and suggesting source for smaller mill, 26 Dec 1951.
- 17.26 Copy of Breen to W.J. Fitzpatrick Co in Chicago about cereal mill for home use, 4 Jan 1952.

- 17.27 FitzMill Corporation of Chicago to Breen attaching brochure about laboratory size mill, 8 Jan 1952.

Folder 18: School of Living (SoL) 1952-1953 & undated

Correspondence, meeting flyers, etc.

- 18.1 Dorothy DeLorme of Warrenville, IL to Breen about interests in homesteading location with longer growing season, not yet contacted Wimer in MO, 9 Jan 1952.
- 18.2 Copy of Breen to DeLorme responding to request for info in *Interpreter*, suggesting contacting the Wimer in MO and general possibilities in Illinois, 11 Dec 1951.
- 18.3 Charlie Seck of Des Plaines, IL to Breen with long term thoughts on relocating elsewhere in the US, US politics, 2 Jan 1952.
- 18.4 William T. Beadles of Illinois Wesleyan University to Breen about inability to attend SoL meeting, 2 Jan 1952.
- 18.5 William T. Beadles of Illinois Wesleyan University to Breen about inability to attend conference at East Bay Camp, 6 Sep 1951.
- 18.6 Jim Parsons of State Farm to Breen about inability to attend East Bay meeting, 31 Aug 1951.
- 18.7 Postcard for SoL meeting at Western Avenue Community Center, 3 Jan 1952.
- 18.8 R.G. Wilborn of Pasadena, CA, to customer on his prior book *The Medical Mischief, You Say!* and his upcoming book *The True Healing Art*, c. early 1952.
- 18.9 Corrigan to Breen on offering Borsodi's book *Flight From the City* to each new local enrollee, 3 Mar 1952.
- 18.10 Copy of Breen to Corrigan acknowledging the need to regain momentum in local group, discussion of Borsodi's writings, setting local course of study and action, 7 Mar 1952.
- 18.11 Floyd M Irvin of Eustis, FL to Breen asking assessment of Ken Kern's building work, 13 Jun 1952.
- 18.12 Copy of Breen to Floyd Irvin in FL indicating that Irvin had worked with Kern directly, early experiments with slip-aluminum form for small house building, general reactions to Kern's work, 13 Jun 1952.
- 18.13 Floyd M. Irvin to Breen about aluminum slide form process and results, Kern's role in the physical building process, 28 Jun 1952.
- 18.14 Postcard from Margery Steer in North Lima, OH, to Breen declining to attend SoL in Bloomington this year, July 1952.
- 18.15 Eleanor Allen to Breen after returning from Circle Pines SoL Conference and trip arrangements to attend Bloomington SoL activities, 5 Aug 1952.
- 18.16 Joe Johnston of Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis, IN, to Breen declining invitation to Family Camp in August, 12 Aug 1952.
- 18.17 Lucille Seck of Des Plaines, IL, to Breen declining attending SoL meetings due to move to NY with husband's job, other family and church news, 21 Aug 1952.
- 18.18 Mike Corrigan in FL to Breen with general news, nd.
- 18.19 Mike Corrigan in Melbourne Village to Breen thanking for recent letter, 16 Aug 1952.
- 18.20 SoL Homestead Arts Day at East Bay Camp, 10 Oct 1952.
- 18.21 Postcard: Mildred Loomis to Breen urging him to attend annual SoL planning session Jan 10-11 including Dr. Grimes of Chicago with Planned Living Clinic proposal, 13 Dec 1952.

- 18.22 Copy of Breen to Mildred Loomis advising unable to attend the planning session above as will be in Melbourne Village in January, desiring to meet with Dr. Grimes in Melbourne in January, Aug 16-29 SoL Family Camp at East Bay, 16 Dec 1952.
- 18.23 Bill Treichler of Walker, IA, to Breen about lecture tour of Lady Eve Balfour, author of *Living Soil*, and possibility of a Bloomington talk, satisfaction with Geiger concrete forms, 30 Dec 1952.
- 18.24 Copy of Breen to William Treichler in Walker, AI, expressing interest in a visit from Lady Balfour, 9 Feb 1953.
- 18.25 Copy of John Pearmain of Boston, MA, to editor Mildred Loomis about Lady Eve Balfour's itinerary, 17 Jan 1953.
- 18.26 Bill Treichler of Walker, IA, to Breen about contact addresses for Lady Balfour and her style and focus on this trip, 11 Feb 1953.
- 18.27 Wm M. Anderson of Springfield, MO, to Breen about developing a "long distance" sign painting business, etc. 3 Mar 1953.
- 18.28 Postcard: George H. Gerth (member of Natural Food Associate) of Sandstone, MN, to SoL in Bloomington requesting info on SoL projects, 20 Oct 1953.
- 18.29 Vermont Community College: An experiment in Cooperative education: 3pp typescript about programs for mature persons to study, live, and work together on small farm. Includes handwritten note from Robert Stowell to Breen thanking him for his inquiry, June 1st, no year.
- 18.30 "Uncle Frank" a/k/a Frank B. Ward of Princeton to Breen thanking for recent hospitality, wishing to visit East Bay in August to see the "Two acres" and work with Timler and Breen on a garden plan for East Bay, etc., 30 July no year.
- 18.31 Newspaper clippings, primarily about School of Living and from *Pantagraph*.

Folder 19: National Conferences at East Bay Camp 1946 & 1951

September 1946: Decentralist Conference

September 1951: School of Living: Included a local "Survey of the Field" on Aug 30 and National Conference & Workshop Aug 31-Sep 3.

- 19.1 Articles on Decentralist Conference by staff correspondent F.A. Behymer of St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Sep 1946. 2 sheets, perhaps proof sheets?
- 19.2 Postcard from Mildred Loomis about arrangements for upcoming SoL event, 8 Mar 1951.
- 19.3 Copy of Breen to Mildred Loomis about selecting date and programs for conference, 15 March 1951.
- 19.4 Lois Kabbe of Ithaca MI about attending upcoming SoL Workshop, 22 Aug 1951.
- 19.5 *The Interpreter*, 15 Aug 1951. Issue includes programs and details for SoL Workshop at East Bay.
- 19.6 Flyer: A National Workshop in School of Living Philosophy, Organization and Methods, 31 Aug- 3 Sep 1951.
- 19.7 Flyer: for "A Meeting to Explore the Ways and Means of Independent Living in Our Central Illinois Area," 30 Aug 1951.
- 19.8 Brochure: National Conference and Workshop of the School of Living, 31 Aug-3 Sep 1951.
- 19.9 List of attendees at National Conference and Workshop, 31 Aug – 3 Sep 1951. 2 copies.

- 19.10 School of Living Workshop – News Sheet enclosing names & addresses of participants, projected plans, finances, etc., by M.J. Loomis, nd.

Folder 20: Halbleib Orchards Correspondence

An organic farming and compost operation in McNabb IL.

- 20.1 Ernest M. Halbleib to Breen thanking Breen for the group he brought to visit last Sunday and listing local people who might be interested in family camping, 31 Jul 1952.
- 20.2 Copy of Breen to Ernest Halbleib about having a return visit by select SoL participants with specific areas of interest, 25 Aug [1952].
- 20.3 Ernest Halblieb to Breen proposing time for visit to the farm, 13 Oct 1952.
- 20.4 Ernest Halblieb to Breen regretting Breen could not come, mentioning recent developments including a line of whole wheat bread, asking him to set another date to visit, 25 Oct 1952.
- 20.5 Halbleib to Frank B. Ward in Princeton, IL, welcoming a group visit, 10 Jul 1952.
- 20.6 Frank B. Ward in Princeton to “Friend Frank [Breen]” enclosing letter for Halblieb about an upcoming visit, “Saturday.”
- 20.7 Halbleib to Breen accepting invitation to visit, referencing planning of a new publication by a group of informed individuals, asking a date when Breen will visit, 27 Aug 1952.
- 20.8 Copy of Breen to Halbleib awaiting date for visit, 2 Sep 1952.
- 20.9 Copy of Breen to Halbleib asking final arrangements on Lady Eve Balfour’s visit to his farm, 6 Mar 1953.
- 20.10 Booklet: “Is your Food as nourishing as it used to be? Etc.” from Council of the Soil Association in England, Rec’d 3/53.
- 20.11 Halbleib to Breen on Lady Balfour’s visit plans and attaching an invitation card for Soil and Health Conservation Meeting at the farm with Lady Balfour as main speaker, 29 Mar 1953.
- 20.12 Halbleib to Breen enclosing early copy of Normal Agriculture, successful visit from Lady Balfour, 15 Apr 1953.
- 20.13 *Normal Agriculture* newsletter, Jan 1953, from Natural Foods Associates, Inc. Article on the group being formed in Illinois included mention of director Ernest Halbleib.
- 20.14 Reprint from *Henry News-Republican* about fifty IL farmers visiting McNabb farm along with organic farming expert, nd. 2 copies.

Folder 21: L.J. Fletcher Correspondence

Fletcher was both a Vice President of the National Council for Community Improvement (NCCI) and of Caterpillar Tractor Co. in Peoria.

- 21.1 Copy of Breen to L.J. Fletcher about recent contacts with National Council for Community Improvement (NCCI) including suggested contact with Fletcher, 24 Mar 1950.
- 21.2 Frank Meehan of NCCI to Breen about recent panel at Parsons College, future cooperation with NCCI, suggesting contact with NCCI Council Vice President Leonard Fletcher in Peoria, 22 Mar 1950. Attached is list of NCCI trustees, aims and activities.
- 21.3 L J Fletcher to Breen inviting Breen to visit him in Peoria, 11 Apr 1950.

- 21.4 Copy of Breen to Fletcher about their recent in person discussion of helping people establish their own homes and hoping for future contacts, 2 Aug 1951.
- 21.5 L.J. Fletcher to Breen about trying to attend part of upcoming meeting at East Bay, 8 Aug 1951.
- 21.6 Copy of Breen to Fletcher thanking him for info on Small Homes' Service at University of Illinois, Breen's desire to combine info from Small Homes' Service with practical experience, encouraging Fletcher to speak at upcoming Pre-National Workshop, etc., 7 Aug 1951.
- 21.7 Fletcher to Breen commenting on inability to attend the national workshop at East Bay Camp during the Caterpillar strike, 10 Sep 1951.
- 21.8 Breen to Caterpillar's Fletcher about recent SoL workshop and what assistance might be available from NCCI of which Fletcher is a vice president, 24 Sept 1951.
- 21.9 Copy of Fletcher to Frank Meehan of NCCI requesting Meehan send Breen info on NCCI activities, 5 Oct 1951.
- 21.10 Copy of Breen to Fletcher asking if Caterpillar could help with earth and rock moving to help construct a swimming area at East Bay Camp, 22 Aug 1952.
- 21.11 Copy of Breen to Fletcher giving requested info about East Bay Camp in pursuit of possible donation of Caterpillar earth moving work, 8 Apr 1953.
- 21.12 Copy of Breen to Fletcher acknowledging visit of two Caterpillar personnel who discouraged an anticipation of earth moving assistance, recent NCCI meeting in St. Louis, asking discussion with Fletcher in planning of Integration Conference at East Bay, 19 May 1953.
- 21.13 Fletcher to Breen agreeing that East Bay Camp was too far away to readily assist with earth moving, 22 May 1953.
- 21.14 Copy of Breen to Fletcher thanking him for the lunch discussion, planning for a workshop or conference, 17 Sep 1953.
- 21.15 Copy of Breen to Fred Jolly at Caterpillar thanking him for the visit to Caterpillar, exploring possibilities of a workshop, 17 Dec 1953.

Folder 22: Building Loans

- 22.1 Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company to Breen stating they do not make mortgage loans in states (such as Illinois) where not licensed to do business, suggested contact Federal Housing Authority (FHA) on cooperative housing plans, 19 Dec 1951.
- 22.2 Copy of Breen to Farm Bureau Insurance Companies about mortgage loans for a group of 10-acre plots in McLean County, 11 Dec 1951.
- 22.3 Peoples Development Company of Ohio to Breen acknowledging contact from Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company about building loans, requirements for building loans, suggesting contacting FHA, 2 Jan 1952.
- 22.4 Copy of Breen to FHA requesting info, 4 Jan 1952.
- 22.5 Brochure: A guide to Cooperative Housing, by Federal Housing Administration, 1950. 16pp.
- 22.6 Administration. 38 pp booklet.
- 22.7 Booklet: Section 213 Cooperative Housing Insurance issued 2 May 1950 by FHA. 38pp.

Folder 23: House Building Methods

Correspondence, etc.

- 23.1 Permadobe Products Company mass mailing about financial investment participation in manufacturing of their new type building block with plant near Melbourne, FL, including brochure about the product and “map” of Melbourne Village, nd.
- 23.2 Copy of Breen to Wm Newcomb in Easton PA (Permadobe Products President) about proposed use of stabilized block at Melbourne Village, Breen’s intent to visit Melbourne next month, investigating feasibility of starting a plan near East Bay, 13 Jan 1946.
- 23.3 Wm Newcomb of Permadore Products Co to Breen, plans for being in Melbourne, interest in additional manufacturing plans, Newcomb’s interest in homesteading, 31 Jan 1947.
- 23.4 Copy of Breen to Mildred Loomis about experiences in cavity wall building, contacting Sam House, possible visit to Ohio, tentative plans for gathering at East Bay Camp, 15 May 1951.
- 23.5 Modern Geiger-Way Concrete Forms brochure, nd.
- 23.6 *Money*, Dec 1951 issue published by John G. Scott of Craryville, NY. 8pp. Includes “Cement Floor-Foundation Plan” article and “An Earth Church” both by S.R. House of IN. Both articles are also photocopied due to fragility of original.
- 23.7 “A Family Without Fear” illustrated story on Earth Homes by S.R. House, Dec 1950.
- 23.8 “On Their Road to Banish Fear” article about earth homes by Sam House, nd.
- 23.9 Flyer on Rammed Earth Homse from S.R. House, nd.
- 23.10 S.R. House at Federal Book Store in Indianapolis to Breen about Breen’s self-help approach to home building, Breen’s intended visit, 17 May 1951.
- 23.11 Sam House at Federal Book Store to Breen about assisting Breen with work on 12 houses, possible visit to Bloomington, 15 Dec 1951.
- 23.12 Copy of Breen to Sam House about local SoL plans and asking if House would come to Bloomington to supervise erection of a small cottage for demonstration, 11 Dec 1951.
- 23.13 Sam House to Breen with enclosure (not present), 24 Dec 1951.
- 23.14 Copy of S R House to Ken Kern in CA about the coinciding of Kern’s ideas with House’s own, size of eaves required in earth homes, Kern visit to Bloomington, etc, 24 Dec 1951.
- 23.15 Copy of Breen to Sam House about Ken Kern info, potential house meeting in Bloomington in spring, to include House, soil testing requirements, 4 Jan 1952.
- 23.16 Sam House to Breen about preliminary earth home meeting before regular demonstration, soil samples, other construction details, etc., 13 Jan 1952.
- 18.32 Sam House to Breen enclosing Kiplinger newsletter contents, plans about Bloomington area construction and thought of a pilot factory, 18 Jan 1952. Plus Kiplinger Washington Letter, 12 Jan 1952.
- 23.17 Sam House to Breen about Christian need to keep in faith with nature, suggesting brining a carload of youth to visit, Kern’s travel plans, etc., 9 Mar 1952.
- 23.18 Sam House to “Friend” at East Bay Camp wanting reply to his invitation to visit, 1 Apr 1952.
- 23.19 Copy of Breen to Sam House expressing continued group interest in economical method of home building, inability to travel in spring, lack of definite plans from Kern regarding East Bay Camp, etc. 2 Apr 1952.

- 23.20 Sam House to Breen thanking for referring House to two former Bloomingtonians now in Indianapolis, need for Bloomington folks to see the demonstration to embrace it, etc., 5 Apr 1952.
- 23.21 Copy of Breen to Sam House resuming planning for House' visit to supervise erection of small camp bldg. to encourage local couples to use that construction technique for their homes, 7 Mar 1952.
- 23.22 Copy of Guy F. Rogers of Gainesville, Fl, to S.H. House (cc: Breen) on Earth Homes – possible future book, construction methods, 24 Jan 1952.
- 23.23 Bill Treichler of Walker, IA, to Breen asking Breen's experiences using small concrete wall forms, 16 Oct 1952.
- 23.24 Copy of Breen to Wm Treichler with info about Geiger form method of construction, 20 Oct 1952.

Folder 24: Ken Kern Correspondence

- 24.1 Breen at East Bay Camp to Kern inquiring about self-help Homestead Design Service and if Kern might be interested in working at East Bay temporarily or permanently, 4 Jan 1952.
- 24.2 Kern in CA to Breen citing his list of possible services, his design philosophy, his curriculum vitae, goal of becoming community designer, and expressing interest in possible work near East Bay, 10 Jan 1952.
- 24.3 Copy of Breen to Kern sharing more info about a Central Illinois demonstration project, etc. 14 Jan 1952.
- 24.4 Kern in FL to Breen awaiting further word from Breen, working on Eustis retirement colony plans, availability in May, etc., 15 Mar 1952.
- 24.5 Copy of Breen to Margaret Normile at Melbourne Village asking that Kern get in touch with Breen after arriving, 5 Apr 1952.
- 24.6 Copy of Breen to Kern in CA about Kern's brief time in Melbourne Village, future plans, 16 Apr 1952.
- 24.7 Kern in Norwalk, CN, to Liz Weir in Bloomington about upcoming Circle Pines conference, large project designing homesteads in NY state, visit to Loomis in OH, hopes for another visit to East Bay, 19 Jul 1952.
- 24.8 Kern in CN to Breen about having completed rough drawings for a Melbourne development, work in CN, possibility of visit to Melbourne in November, uncertainty of timing of next visit to Bloomington, etc. 10 Aug 1952.
- 24.9 Kern in CN to Breen on delay in submitting plans for Melbourne Project, helpful FL weather info for house design, intent to soon send drawing of proposed Melbourne development, 23 Aug 1954.
- 24.10 Copy of Breen to Kern about recent Dayton discussions on Melbourne Village plans, and particulars including Tectum building materials, next visit to Melbourne, 3 Sept 1952.
- 24.11 Kern to Breen regretting that his "revolutionary" preliminary design was not acceptable, Tectum building method, Kern's newfound availability for Melbourne visit, 19 Sept 1952.
- 24.12 Kern to Breen submitting second preliminary proposal, Tectum vs. Geiger wall bldg. methods, possibly selling his Ford truck, travel plans, etc., 9 Oct 1952.

- 24.13 Kern to Breen enclosing preliminary SoL bldg. design, progress on Melbourne model, selling his Tucson interest, starting design of “your residence at the lake,” 16 Nov 1952.
- 24.14 Kern at Alpine, CA to Breen enclosing plot plan, working on model, 7 Nov 1952, with 12 Nov 1952 handwritten note about delay in mailing.
- 24.15 Copy of Olive Craig for “The SoL clan” to Kern enclosing SoL sketches which Kern sent Breen, listing suggestions, 28 Nov 1952.
- 24.16 Kern in CA to Breen on completing the Melbourn Living Plan Model and images, etc., “Saturday” no date.
- 24.17 Kern in CA to Olive [Craig] about a totally different design, responding to their list of suggestions with specifics, awaiting feedback on preliminary Melbourne sheet, etc., 5 Dec 1952.
- 24.18 Onion skin sheet: SoL for Bloomington Preliminary No 1, Nov 1952; architectural cross section sketch, and second level floor plan.
- 24.19 “A Program for a Building and Design Service,” Jan 1953. For prospective homebuilders in US who cannot afford professional architectural aid by Ken Kern.
- 24.20 Kern to Liz & Bloomington Friends starting on his own homestead near Yosemite Park, possibly participation in an annual greeting letter summarizing prior year, FBI breakup of “Jim Brown crowd” at Milligan place, 2 Dec 1952.
- 24.21 Three onionskins for SoL for Bloomington Preliminary 22, Dec 1952: Overall with cross section; spatial analysis in terms of activity demand; [air] circulation diagram.
- 24.22 Kern in CA to unspecified about returning from a month in Mexico, reporting receiving the map, future travel plans, etc., 12 Jan 1953.
- 24.23 Kern in CA to Liz about mailing copies of Melbourne Living drawing, needing further details to complete, awaiting comment on SoL plans, flurry of requests after recent mention in *Interpreter*, finding bear tracks in his meadow and other details of life, 15 Jan 1953.
- 24.24 Kern in NYC to Breen regretting having missed Breen last week, upcoming European trip and US travels upon returning, requesting details about Breen’s summer conference plans, enclosing slides of Melbourne model, 13 Mar 1953.
- 24.25 Postcard from Kern to Breen requesting copies of the drawing of the slip form for a woman in PA, 14 Mar 1953.
- 24.26 Postcard from France to Breen, et al, 18 April, [1953] about Kern’s travels in Europe
- 24.27 Letter & photocopy of Kern to Breens, Liz, and East Bay Friends about recent European trip, 11 Sep 1953.
- 24.28 Kern in Oakhurst CA to Breen considering attending Borsodi-Loomis seminar in Melbourne in late Feb, recently received commission, homesteading, 8 Dec 1953.
- 24.29 Kern to Breen preparing to travel to Melbourne, 16 Jan 1954.

Folder 25: Melbourne Village 1946-1951

Correspondence, etc.

- 25.1 Copy of Breen to Dr. McLean at Lincoln College about setting a meeting in Dayton, OH, to discuss creating a functional neighborhood at Melbourne, FL, in conjunction with Bloomington area persons including Carl Vrooman and Vera Snow, et al, 1 Nov 1946.
- 25.2 Copy of Breen to Dr. McLean about date for Dayton meeting, 9 Nov 1946.

- 25.3 Copy of Breen to Dr. McLean about arrangements for Dayton meeting, 11 Nov 1946.
- 25.4 General invitation to apply for founder's membership in Melbourne Homestead Village Development from the director of the foundation, nd.
- 25.5 Virginia P. Wood of Dayton, OH, on Melbourne Village, FL, stationery, to Breen, thanking for the map he sent and their meeting, nd.
- 25.6 Copy of Breen to Virginia Wood about upcoming trip to Dayton with Breen, Carl Vrooman, Dr. McLean, 15 Nov 1946.
- 25.7 E.N. (Eliz. Nutting) on Melbourne Village stationery to Breen about recent letter from Norman Lenington and Breen's engagement in the project, hoping Vera Snow can also come, "Tuesday morning" with nd.
- 25.8 Copy of Breen to Miss Nutting advising that Vera Snow will join trip to Dayton for the 22nd, 16 Jan 1947.
- 25.9 Copy of Olive Craig to Virginia Woods in Dayton about Breen's travel plans, 14 Feb 1947.
- 25.10 Copy of Breen to Norman Lund in Melbourne, FL, about recent visit to Melbourne, visit in Dayton with Wood & Nutting about Melbourne project, positive impact of the project in Lund's home value, Lund's possible assistance, 26 Feb 1947.
- 25.11 Elizabeth N. (Nutting) at Dayton, OH, on Melbourne Village stationery to "Kim" [Frank Breen] requesting review of draft of philosophical and social background of project (document not present), progress on project, 8 Mar 1947.
- 25.12 Copy of Breen to Virginia Wood at Melbourne Village advising that Carl, Julia, and Rev. Hiram Vrooman are making a slow trip to Melbourne Village, asking that they be Alice Carr's house guests, Vera Snow's slow surgical recovery, etc., 22 Mar 1950.
- 25.13 Copy of Breen to Carl Vrooman in Melbourne, FL, exhorting him to follow up on the suggested contacts there, suggesting that he & Julia build a retreat cottage beside the one the Breen's plan for next winter, using Mr. Hudsepth in building process, 6 April 1950.
- 25.14 Group of six letters from Homer Rodeheaver of Florida to and from Breen about developing small rental cottages for an "oasis" for Christians visiting the area, Aug 1950-Apr 1951.
- 25.15 Margaret Hutchinson to Kim {Frank Breen} about group heading to Bloomington conference from Melbourne Village, 28 Aug 1951.
- 25.16 Copy of Breen to Margaret Hutchison regretting that she was unable to attend the conference, Corrigan's assistance, asking Hutchinson's observations on village developments including perhaps the demise of idealism, Larsons' plans to building outside Melbourne Village, Breen uncertainty about Melbourne, etc., 27 Nov 1951.
- 25.17 Virginia Wood to Breens regarding conference as time well spent, car break down on Elizabeth Nutting's trip home from conference, returning to FL to supervise her building and re-modelling program, 13 Sept 1951
- 25.18 Published letter to all members of American Homesteading Foundation (AHF) calling special meeting on 24 Nov 1951 to vote on proposed revision of By-Laws clause by clause including controversial proxy elimination, 19 Oct 1951.
- 25.19 Proposed Revision of the By-Laws of AHF to be voted at Sixth Annual Meeting, 10pp.
- 25.20 Michael Corrigan of SoL in Melbourne to Breen about planning and anticipated Executive Committee meetings in NY which he hopes Breen will attend, 12 Dec 1951.

25.21 Corrigan to Breen about upcoming visit from Breen, et al, 24 Dec 1951.

Folder 26: Melbourne Village 1952-1956

Correspondence, etc.

- 26.1 Copy of Breen to Corrigan commenting on Melbourne Village Newsletter quality, book orders, Breens to be working on their Melbourne cottage mid-January to mid-February, potential for other visitors such as Vrooman, 4 Jan 1952.
- 26.2 Melbourne Village newsletter, Jan 1952.
- 26.3 Michael Corrigan to Breen about book orders, Breen's paragraph for newsletter, looking forward to advice in meeting with Breen-McKnight-Vrooman-Larson, strong push back and misunderstanding from villagers about SoL, 8 Jan 1952.
- 26.4 AHF Financials: Development Costs & Income 16 Apr 1951 – 31 Mar 1952. & Financial Condition 31 Mar 1952.
- 26.5 Copy of Breen to AHF about taxes or assessment due on his village property, 18 Apr 1952.
- 26.6 Photo flier for 6th Annual Meeting American Homesteading Foundation 9-11 May 1952.
- 26.7 Virginia Wood, Secretary of AHF, to members enclosing report of Sixth Annual Meeting, 25 Jul 1952.
- 26.8 Minutes of Sixth Annual Meeting of AHF May 9-11 1952. 14pp.
- 26.9 Copy of Breen to William Fisher at Melbourne Village about world of disappointment in recent annual meeting, expressing confidence in Bill, and hoping to find common ground among villagers, 20 May 1952.
- 26.10 Melbourne Village newsletter, 9 Jul 1952.
- 26.11 Eliz. Nutting, Dean of Melbourne Village SoL to Members of AHF announcing decision to reorganize Melbourne Village SoL and affiliate with SoL America, membership fee, etc., nd.
- 26.12 President Strohmer of AHF to all members announcing meeting to vote on increasing maintenance assessment from \$1.50 to \$3 monthly, 31 Aug 1953. Plus Statement by the Finance and Budget Committees justifying the increase, 20 Aug 1953.
- 26.13 Copy of Breen to AHF President Strohmer thanking for statement from Finance and Budget Committee, good management of village, enclosing proxy card, etc., 125 Sep 1953.
- 26.14 Melbourne Village Newsletter, Aug 1953.
- 26.15 Ralph Borsodi to members of AHF reviewing past AHF administration results to explain his anticipated vote for board members and encouraging others to vote similarly. 1 Apr 1954.
- 26.16 Elizabeth [Nutting] to Breen hoping he and Thelma will be at the annual meeting, recommending how to vote on board members and why, a surprise recognition for Virginia [Wood], 15 Apr 1954.
- 26.17 Will W. McKnight Sr at Melbourne Village to Breen about politics of upcoming board election, Bloomington friends, etc., 17 Apr 1954.
- 26.18 [New] Melbourne Village Betterment League to fellow members of the AHF with info on the purpose and activities of the new League 26 Jul 1954.
- 26.19 By-Laws for AHF, Apr 1954. 4pp.

- 26.20 Virginia Wood to Investors in the Melbourne Village Service Fund attaching financial report for 1953 & first half of 1954 with commentary, 30 Jul 1954.
- 26.21 Minute of 10th Annual Meeting of AHF, 3-4 Mar 1956. Includes financial statements.
- 26.22 List of candidates for Nominating Committee of American Homesteading Foundation for voting, nd. Names of five individuals have been hand-marked.

Folder 27: Melbourne Village – Helen Smith Correspondence

- 27.1 Report to AHF Members who sent their proxies to the committee of Five (Wood, Hutchison, Nutting, Smith, Borsodi) Annual Meeting May 9, 19.11, 1952
- 27.2 Copy of Breen to Smith acknowledging her explanation, comparing the discussion to a small church disagreement, appreciation of her humor and integrity, 30 Jul 1952.
- 27.3 Copy of Breen to Smith about her analysis of the Melbourne Village situation, intent to meet with Virginia Wood to learn if his plan “for corner of the front twenty” will be accepted, 7 Aug 1952.
- 27.4 Michael Corrigan to Breen about board discussion of Breen’s proposal for guest housing, committee to draw up contract, further questions, 3 Oct 1952.
- 27.5 Copy of Breen to Corrigan about the focus of the guest housing plan, anticipated November visit to Melbourne with opportunity to discuss with Committee to see if proposal is advantageous to the Village, 27 Oct 1952.
- 27.6 Copy of Breen to Virginia [Wood] about the guest housing proposal, SoL training centers, etc., 27 Oct 1952.
- 27.7 Smith to McKnight to “fill in with details” what he may not have learned” from Wood or Corrigan regarding his resolutions, unfortunate politics of Breen communicating only with Wood in OH, future board discussion on the 3-Acre proposal, etc. 25 Apr [1953].
- 27.8 Copy of Breen to Smith about McKnight having shared the letter immediately above, respecting her business acumen for the sake of the Village, rebutting the notion that he corresponded only with Wood, requesting appropriate contact names for general Village business and for Three Acre Development Committee, 19 May 1953.
- 27.9 Copy of Virgil Baird to Corrigan about responses to questions on building planning, 19 May 1953.
- 27.10 Smith to Breen about collecting tenant’s rent, viability of Bairds opening a restaurant or catering business, impact of flooding from canals, necessity of a planning board in addition to regular Board, etc., 12 Oct 1953.

Folder 28: Breen’s Melbourne Village House

Correspondence, etc.

- 28.1 Copy of Breen to R.E. Jessen on assistance planning a modest three-bedroom cottage for Breen, 15 Oct 1951.
- 28.2 Copy of Breen to Jessen enclosing copy of plat for cottage site, intent to do much of his own work on the building, seeking assistance, 19 Dec 1951.
- 28.3 Copy of Breen to Small Homes Institute at University of Florida at Gainesville about using cement Geiger Aluminum Form for a small home near Melbourne near year and seeking guidance, 11 Dec 1951.
- 28.4 Copy of Breen to F.E. Fick at Melbourne, FL, thanking him for his neighborliness, asking for particulars on recent development concerning his house, etc., 5 May 1952.

- 28.5 F.E. Fick to Breens noting minimal activity in finishing the Breen residence, disappointing results of annual meeting and need for more cooler heads, 12 May 1952.
- 28.6 Copy of Breen to F.E. Fick about disappointments in the house builders, lack of response from Jack Litteral who was to finish the house, etc., 15 May 1952.
- 28.7 Copy of Breen to F.E. Fick about role of "the office" in renting and tending properties while Villagers are gone, concerns about litter about the house, 13 Apr 1953.
- 28.8 Copy of Breen to Sullys in Melbourne about lack of detail on the invoice, responsibilities of Jack Litteral in working on the house and buying materials, etc., 7 May 1952.
- 28.9 Copy of Breen to J.T. Litteral in Eau Gallie, FL, concerned about not having heard from him and requesting update on progress and expenses, 16 May 1952.
- 28.10 Copy of Breen to Forrest Geiger in IN about buying a second set of Geier-Way Forms, 22 Jul 1952.
- 28.11 Copy of Breen to Corrigan at Melbourne about word of his disappointment in SoL experiences and encouraging him to persevere, 6 Aug 1952.
- 28.12 J.T. Litteral to Breens about the need for plumber to redo plumbing, pushing the electrician to complete his work, thus delaying the plastering a few weeks, 3 Sep 1952.
- 28.13 Copy of Breens to J.T. Litteral about delays and other particulars on the house construction and enclosing check, 10 Sep 1952.
- 28.14 Copy of Breen to Charles H. Scholefield in Melbourne about need for plumbing change in north bathroom, intent to have house complete by Nov 1 when the Breens arrive, etc. 10 Sep 1952.
- 28.15 Copy of Breen to H.J. Rillstone Sr at Melbourne about electrical work to be completed at the house before plasterers can begin, etc., 10 Sep 1952.
- 28.16 Copy of Breen to J.T. Litteral requesting further update on house building progress, plans for Breens to arrive Nov 12, 27 Oct 1952.
- 28.17 Blueprint: Melbourne Living Plan for Frank L. Breen Nov 1952 by K.Kern. Plot Plan & Roof Framing.
- 28.18 Margaret T. Hutchison of AHF to Breen recommending that Carl Vrooman's quit claim deed be deeded directly to new members M/M Grant Huntley, 6 Jan 1953.
- 28.19 Copy of Breen to Carl Vrooman at Dorset England about recent severe storms in England, Bloomingtonians visiting Florida this past winter, having the Breen house in Melbourne in livable shape, beginning of food service using Breen's residence there, sale of Vrooman's lot in Melbourne Village and use of the money realized to start food service project, loss of East Bay Camp office to fire, anticipated tour from Lady Eve Balfour, etc., 5 Mar 1953.
- 28.20 Copy of Breen to Clark Strohmer at Melbourne about his responsibilities in renting the Breen Homestead, Breen expectations, etc., 23 Apr 1953.
- 28.21 Copy of Breen to Carl Vrooman in Dorset, England, about quitclaim deed procedure, using the funds generated to create hospital and food center in the Breen house, details of SoL garden plan at East Bay this summer, progress on church center improvement program, 1 May 1953.
- 28.22 Copy of Breen to Anthony Rossi in Melbourne about recent visit from Breen's sister-in-law, how to handle house improvements, possibility of Rossi's permanent tenancy, etc. 8 May 1953.

- 28.23 Copy of Breen to Michael Corrigan in Melbourne thanks for status update on Breen house, seeking clarity on rental agent or other contacts, other issues to resolve, nd.
- 28.24 Copy of Breen to Clark Strohmer at Melbourne as rental agent about house utilities, 8 May 1953.
- 28.25 Copy of Breen to "Cap"[F.E. Fick] asking that house is properly closed to resist hurricane as it is presumably not currently rented, 12 Aug 1953.
- 28.26 Copy of Breen to Bert Kaye at Melbourne about his role in locking the house, anticipated arrival of Virgil Bairds to occupy the Breen house, 23 Sep 1953.
- 28.27 Copy of Breen to Helen Smith at Melbourne acknowledging her letter with check enclosed, plans for Bairds to live in Breen house while building their own, 22 Oct 1953.

Folder 29: Three-Acres Project at Melbourne Village

Correspondence, etc.

- 29.1 Copy of Breen to Virginia Wood at Melbourne, reporting on what Bloomington group learned while working at Melbourne, requesting her to proceed on proposed lease for Bloomington SoL, 7 Mar 1952.
- 29.2 Copy of Breen to Virginia Wood about recent differences of opinion on proxy voting, description of Three Acres intent, proposed rental and guest fees, etc., 18 Apr 1952.
- 29.3 Virginia Wood to Breens with particulars and questions on Three Acres based on Building and Grounds Committee discussions, AHF bylaws proposal and request for proxies, 4 April [1952].
- 29.4 Copy of Breen to Virginia Wood asking if it is time for Breen to pursue having Ken Kern design layout for Three Acres, 16 May 1952.
- 29.5 Copy of Breen to Wood about Three Acres, desire to counsel with Mildred Loomis and Louise Odiorne on initial steps, attaching draft 25-year lease agreement, 17 Jul 1952.
- 29.6 Olive Bradley Osborn in CA to Breens expressing interest in Melbourne Village, 4 Aug 1952.
- 29.7 Copy of Breen to Olive Osborn about obtaining info on Melbourne Village, Bloomington folks who are interested in Melbourne, 8 Aug 1952.
- 29.8 Virginia Wood to Breen about arranging visit to Mildred and Louise and chance to see new building material in Louise's house, likely reception of Melbourne Village Building and Grounds Committee to new proposition, 18 Aug [1952]
- 29.9 Copy of Breen to Wood about travel plans, having reviewed Three Acre lease with key Bloomington parties, engaging Ken Kern to design. 22 Aug 1952.
- 29.10 F.E. Fick at Melbourne Village to Breen about board review of Three Acres proposal, standstill on construction on the Breen house, 3 Oct 1952.
- 29.11 Copy of Breen to F E Fick as President of board of AHF enclosing proposed lease³ Sep 1952. Plus 2-page lease proposal.
- 29.12 Additional copy of 2-page lease proposal, Sep 1952.
- 29.13 Lynn Rohrbough of Cooperative Recreation Service in Delaware, OH, to Breen about Mildred Loomis mentioning an interesting building project in Melbourne and desire to see it, 30 Dec 1952.

- 29.14 W W McKnight Sr to Breen about Hanson's sudden death, new house construction near Breen's house, harvesting citrus, planned visit with Ernie to county agent on soil and growing recommendations, 5 Feb 1953.
- 29.15 W W McKnight Sr to Breen about settlement with plumber on Breen's home in Melbourne, fire at *Pantagraph* office, updates on other persons in Melbourne, recent board meeting, 6 Mar 1953.
- 29.16 W W McKnight Sr to Breen about Bairds intent to start food service, attending board meeting, details of committee meeting (including McKnight) to review Breen's "small housing" proposal, requesting a new statement from Breen on the proposal, update on Breen house progress, 9 Mar 1953.
- 29.17 W W McKnight Sr to Breen about minutes of recent meeting, 12 Mar 1953.
- 29.18 W W McKnight Sr to Breen about having presented Breens new proposal, committee's desire to change location of Three Acres and desire for more details, Bloomington SoL desire to erect building at East Bay, 23 Mar 1953.
- 29.19 Copy of Breen to W W McKnight Sr at Melbourne having previously tried to make clear that the application for leasehold was being withdrawn and instead basing proposal on individual leaseholds, enclosing Kern's schematics, Bairds awaiting final word from the Village, anticipated "Tomato Story" in *Pantagraph*, 27 Mar 1953.
- 29.20 Schematic Plot Plan – 3 Acres, nd. 2 copies.
- 29.21 Copy of Breen to Virginia Wood Carl Vrooman's quit claim deed, Breen's surprise in Melbourne in January that the land was already sold, future actions, 13 Apr 1953.
- 29.22 Copy of Breen to Robert Burns at University of Chicago about possible use of trailers in garden settlements at Melbourne, 15 Apr 1953.
- 29.23 Copy of Breen to Louise Odiorne in OH on AHF negotiations with Virgil Baird for construction of food service facilities, requesting Odiorne to review kitchen layout plans with Baird, 15 Apr 1953.
- 29.24 Virginia Wood at Melbourne to Breen about legal details on Vrooman quit claim deed matter, new AHF board officials, 18 Apr 1953.
- 29.25 Copy of Breen to Wood enclosing signed quit claim deeds for Vrooman property, hopes of discussion with her on Three Acre Project and more, 21 Apr 1953.
- 29.26 F.E. Fick to Breens on recent annual meeting, inability to look after Breen's homestead and instead perhaps use "Cracker Tom," question on recent proposal for guest housing, location of proposed Three Acres, expectations of development on nearby property, 19 Apr 1953.
- 29.27 Copy of Breen to F.E. Fick at Melbourne, Mr. Strohmer's responsibility as agent in renting the Breen house and necessary clean up outdoors, 23 Apr 1953.
- 29.28 Breen to Dr J.R. Livermore in NY about being new neighbors in Melbourne, securing 40 acres south of canal for the Village to assure compatible development, Three Acres Project concept, inadvertently sale of one of group of lots owned by Bloomingtononians to Livermore, 24 Apr 1953.
- 29.29 Postcard: Mrs. J.E. Gourley in Decatur, IL to Breen requesting info about Melbourne Village, 25 Apr 1953.
- 29.30 Copy of Breen to Mrs. Gourley about Breen's upcoming plan for a "small area" in the Village, 28 Apr 1953.

- 29.31 Randall Livermore in NY to Breen questioning why Breen wants rental housing development withing Melbourne Village, 7 May 1953.
- 29.32 Copy of Breen to Livermore in NY explaining that leaseholds have some appeal over ownership, dead ending road nearby, 18 May 1953.
- 29.33 Copy of Breen to F.E. Fick thanking for news and supervising clean up of the lots, surprise at learning the Committee would not be providing a proposal, swimming pool liability issues, comments from correspondence with the Livermores, 14 May 1953.
- 29.34 Wm. Fisher to Virgil Baird in Bloomington about his proposal to AHF and clarifying a few points, requesting formal proposal, 4 Jun 1953.
- 29.35 Copy of Bairds' proposal for service facilities construction, 28 Mar 1953.
- 29.36 F.E. Fick to Breens enclosing copy of letter to Bairds, recent requirement that all communication on Village business pass through the Chairman of the Board, Carl Strohmer, 13 Jun 1953 plus copy of attached letter.
- 29.37 Copy of Breen to F.E. Fick at Melbourne advising Bairds have rec'd letter from Bill Fisher and that the Bairds' are awaiting official word from Melbourne, 16 Jun 1953.
- 29.38 Copy of Breen to Wm Fisher at Melbourne responding to his Jun 4 inquiries about the proposal and necessity of making a final decision to move forward with the next month, 16 Jun 1953.
- 29.39 Copy of Breen to Wm Fisher at Melbourne advising that Bairds are awaiting official acceptance from AHF and expressing faith in the Bairds, 16 Jun 1953.
- 29.40 Melbourne Village Newsletter, Jun 1953. Includes comments on Bairds outline to erect building for food and laundry service and offices and progress on Breen's proposal.
- 29.41 Virginia Wood to Breen hoping that Breen's contract is coming along well, Village treatment of Elizabeth Nutting, Wood's "semi-open" letter to Bill Fisher, 12 Jul [1953]
- 29.42 Copy of Breen to Virginia Wood about how Melbourne Village has been treating Elizabeth Nutting, that the Bairds have secured a contract, lack of tenants for Breen house, 16 Jul 1953.

Folder 30: Publications on Decentralization, Etc.

- 30.1 Kitsiokla newsletter 4 from the Kitsiokla Group in Richmond, CA. Kitsiokla group is "a small group cooperative community in a mountain valley in Central British Columbia." 30pp
- 30.2 Circle Pines Center, a Co-operative Farm Camp in Cloverdale, MI, c 1952.
- 30.3 "What is worth more than health?" from *Prevention Magazine*, Emmaus PA, early 1950s
- 30.4 Subscription rates for *The Interpreter* with "Normal Living" poem on back, nd.
- 30.5 "Co-Operative Democracy" a quarterly magazine, Apr-Jun 1949. Vol I No 3. Includes "A Decentralist Program for Agriculture" by Ralph Borsodi. 41pp plus ads.
- 30.6 "Principles of Decentralization" by John P. Chamberlain. Reprint from Dec 1939 issue of *Free America*.
- 30.7 The School of Living, Suffern, N.Y. Announcement 1939-1940. Lists purposes, trustees, staff, activities, principles, practices, publications.
- 30.8 *Journal of the School of Living*, Suffern NY, Summer School 1946. Lists board, staff, history, activities, student roster, more.
- 30.9 *The School of Living NEWS*, Suffern NY Jan 19 1940. 2 copies.

- 30.10 "Blueprints for a New Society IV: Borsodi and the Chesterbelloc" reprinted from *New Republic* of Jan 11 1940 and distributed by the Homeland Foundation NYC.
- 30.11 *The School of Living NEWS*, Suffern NY Nov 1941.
- 30.12 School of Living Institute, Brookville, OH. Brochure, c 1947.
- 30.13 *Lane's End Foundation* Vol 2 No 3 Dec 1942 by Mildred and John Loomis of Brookville, OH.
- 30.14 *Lane's End Foundation* Vol 3 No 1 Apr 1943. Brookville, OH.
- 30.15 "Decentralization – the Reaffirmation of Life." A booklist prepared by Mildred Jensen Loomis and published by the Fellowship of Reconciliation. 7pp.
- 30.16 *The Fellowship News Letter of the Community Center Foundation*, Palos Park, IL, Dec 1942.
- 30.17 *The Fellowship News Letter of the Community Center Foundation*, Palos Park, IL, Apr 1943.
- 30.18 *Lane's End Foundation* Vol 3 No 1 Apr 1943. Brookville, OH.
- 30.19 *The Communitier*, newsletter of the Rural Cooperative Community Conference, Sept 1942 from Teaberryport NY. Includes brief on Rammed Earth.

Folder 31: Frank Breen Awards and Memorials

- 31.1 Community Service Award certificate, *Daily Pantagraph*, 1936.
- 31.2 "Frank Breen, Idealist" copied from *Daily Pantagraph* editorial, 15 Nov 1967. 2 copies on green paper.
- 31.3 Notice of "tribute to life" to be held at Second Presbyterian church of Bloomington, 16 Nov 1967.
- 31.4 Resolution of Kiwanis Club of Bloomington to the memory of Reverend Frank Linn Breen, 20 Nov 1967.
- 31.5 Mockup for "McLean County Profiles No. 2 of a series" by Popelka, nd.

Folder 32: Frank and Thelma

See also loose books for Marriage service.

- 32.1 Marriage certificate, Champaign, Il, 27 Feb 1945.
- 32.2 "Miss VanNess, Frank Breen Are Married," *Pantagraph*, 28 Feb 1945.
- 32.3 "Let Your Light So Shine" holiday letter from Thelma & Kim Breen, no year.

Folder 33: Thelma Van Ness Breen

- 33.1 Report cards for Thelma Van Ness, first and fifth grades in McLean Public Schools.
- 33.2 Minutes of 18 Nov 1959 meeting of library board, Thelma Breen, Secy.
- 33.3 "It's Library Week," with photo, *Pantagraph*, 20 Apr 1969.
- 33.4 "Mrs. Breen gets plaque at retirement dinner," *Pantagraph*, 9 Apr 1972.
- 33.5 "Book work," captioned photo of volunteer Thelma, *Pantagraph*, 29 Apr 1973.
- 33.6 "Retirement can't keep Mrs. Breen from books," *Pantagraph*, 15 April 1973.
- 33.7 "Former library head Thelma Breen dies," *Pantagraph*, 2 Aug 1979.
- 33.8 Withers Public Library board resolution declaring Thelma Breen Distinguished Librarian Emeritus, 1 Apr 1972.
- 33.9 City of Bloomington resolution for her service as head librarian of Withers, 24 Apr 1972.
- 33.10 Certificate of reaffirmation of faith in the Union Presbyterian Church of Bloomington, 12 Dec 1971.

- 33.11 Envelope of floral cards for funeral of Thelma Breen
- 33.12 Research by Nancy Breen Phillips, step granddaughter of Thelma Breen for “honor event.”
- 33.13 “Thoughts on Thelma Breen” by step grandson Jon L. Breen for ‘honor event’
- 33.14 Withers Library Fact Sheet, 4pp by Citizens for a New Library, 1975.
- 33.15 Acknowledgement from Bloomington Public Library to Nancy Gordon of memorial donation, 6 Aug 1979.
- 33.16 Acknowledgement to Nancy Breen Gordon of donation of 48 volumes from 1850s-60s held by alumna Thelma Van Ness, 3 Feb 1980.
- 33.17 Invitation to brief dedication of plaque honoring Thelma Breen, 15 Oct 2019. 2 copies.

Folder 34: Jon Breen

Son of Wm & Margaret Breen; grandson of Frank Linn Breen.

- 34.1 “Thoughts on Thelma Breen,” by Jon L. Breen. 2pp.
- 34.2 “The Jury Box,” by Jon Breen, book review column published in *Ellery Queen*, Jan 1995.
- 34.3 “The Jury Box,” by Jon Breen, book review column published in *Ellery Queen*, Apr 2000.
- 34.4 List of books by author Jon L. Breen from thriftbooks.com, Oct 2018.

Loose Books:

Marriage Service at Champaign, IL, for Frank Breen & Thelma Van Ness, 27 Feb 1945.
 Funeral book for Thelma Breen, August 1979.