

McLean County Museum of History

Hubbard Family Collection

Processed by
Frankie Gordey
Spring 2025

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1900-2017
RESTRICTIONS:	None
PROVENANCE:	Gift
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:	Hubbard Roycrofters Book Collection
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	None

Brief History

The Hubbard family, consisting of Silas (father), Juliana (mother), Charles (son), and Hannah (daughter), moved to Bloomington, IL from Buffalo, NY in 1855. Silas opened his own medical practice in the city on Front Street between Main and East Streets. Their son Elbert was born in Bloomington on June 19, 1856. In 1857, the Hubbard's moved about 10 miles north of the city to Hudson, where they eventually built a house in town that is still standing today and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Silas continued to practice medicine and was the only doctor in Hudson at the time. The family would have three more daughters: Daisy, Mary, and Honor. Silas and Juliana would live at their home in Hudson until 1900 when they moved to East Aurora, NY to be closer to their children.

Elbert Hubbard would grow up to be the most well-known figure in the Hubbard family. Elbert was a successful traveling soap salesman for the Larkin Company which brought him to Buffalo, NY. In the mid-1890s, Elbert founded his Roycroft Press in East Aurora, NY which would grow into an arts and crafts community and campus that produced books, furniture, and other goods that became very popular. Through his Roycroft Press, Elbert would publish several of his own magazines including *The Philistine* and *The Fra*. He is perhaps best known for the 1899 essay "A Message to Garcia," which appeared in *The Philistine* and became immensely popular. Elbert and his second wife Alice died in the sinking of the *Lusitania* on May 7, 1915. The Roycrofters continued operations under his son until 1938. The campus is still around today.

Scope

This collection includes general histories of the Hubbard family, biographies of Silas and Elbert Hubbard, a handwritten manuscript from Silas Hubbard, published writings of Elbert Hubbard, Roycroft materials, and letters, newspaper articles, etc. related to the Hubbard family.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: General Family History

- 1.1 "The Hubbards of Hudson," typescript by Viggo J. Frost, 1955, 25 pp.
- 1.2 Email correspondence between Daniel R. Pollitt and McLean County Museum of History Librarian Bill Kemp discussing Pollitt donating a copy of his short writing on the Hubbard family and Daisy H. Carlock Pollitt, May 21-22, 2017.
- 1.3 "Daisy Hubbard Carlock Pollitt in McLean County, Illinois (1861-1895)," typescript by Daniel R. Pollitt, May 2017, 5 pp., includes photos of the Hubbard House and Hubbard Park in Hudson, IL.

Folder 2: Silas Hubbard

- 2.1 "The Hubbard Family, 1915," typescript that provides a short biography of Silas Hubbard's life, unknown author, 1915, 5 pp.
- 2.2 Photocopy of "The Hubbard Family, 1915," typescript, 5pp.
- 2.3 "Silas Hubbard, Early Physician of McLean County," typescript by Beatrice B. Armstrong, undated, 4 pp.

- 2.4 "Life Sketch of Doctor Hubbard. From his recollections." typescript prepared by W.B. Carlock. "Sketch Dr. Hubbard" and "Prepared by W.B. Carlock" are handwritten in pencil on the back, undated, 2 pp.

Folder 3: Silas Hubbard Manuscript

- 3.1 Handwritten manuscript from Silas Hubbard describing the changes in the medical profession that he has seen throughout his lifetime, undated, 8 pp.
- 3.2 "Changes in Medical Practice, – Doctor Silas Hubbard," typescript of the handwritten manuscript from Silas Hubbard describing the changes in the medical profession that he has seen throughout his lifetime, undated, 2 pp.

Folder 4: Elbert Hubbard

- 4.1 "Elbert Hubbard, Master of Roycroft," by Martin A. Wyckoff, *Orbit*, 1969, pp. 5-12.
- 4.2 Photocopy of "Hubbard, Elbert Green," by Douglas R. Capra from the *Encyclopedia of American Humorists*, 1988, pp. 232-236, pp. 486.
- 4.3 Photocopy of "Philistine" by Douglas R. Capra, undated, 6 pp.
- 4.4 Email correspondence between Jack Keefe and McLean County Museum of History Librarian Bill Kemp discussing an article from the *Daily Bulletin* that reports Elbert Hubbard missing and discusses his place of birth in Bloomington, February 9, 2010.
- 4.5 Photocopy of "Elbert Hubbard Among Missing From the Liner Lusitania," *Daily Bulletin*, May 9, 1915.
- 4.6 "Elbert Hubbard Formerly of Hudson, Illinois, Forever of the Roycrofters East Aurora, New York," typescript by Douglas K. Jennings, April 17, 2001, 12 pp, includes images of Elbert Hubbard.

Folder 5: Elbert Hubbard Writings

- 5.1 "Jones of Wall Street," booklet written by Elbert Hubbard for a September 1914 edition of *The Philistine*, published by Jones & Baker's Unexcelled Brokerage Service, undated, 12 pp.
- 5.2 "A Message to Garcia: Memorial Edition" booklet written by Elbert Hubbard, 17th printing published by Elbert Hubbard II (The House of Hubbard) of East Aurora, New York, 1955, 16 pp.
- 5.3 "A Message to Garcia: Memorial Edition," booklet written by Elbert Hubbard, 21st printing published by Elbert Hubbard II (The House of Hubbard) of East Aurora, New York and includes Bloomington, IL address on front cover, 1970, 16 pp.
- 5.4 "Do unto others as though you were the others," quote card by Elbert Hubbard, undated.
- 5.5 "Blessed is that man who has found his work," quote card by Elbert Hubbard, undated.
- 5.6 "Folks who never do any more than they get paid for, never get paid for any more than they do," quote card by Elbert Hubbard, Hubbard's name is handwritten on the reverse side of the card, undated.
- 5.7 "A Message to Garcia," pamphlet written by Elbert Hubbard, published by Triangle Truck Parts, Inc. of Bloomington, Illinois, undated, 4 pp.

Folder 6: Roycrofters

- 6.1 "Some Books For Sale At Our Shop," catalog that includes books that are for sale at the Roycroft Shop in East Aurora, New York, published by The Roycrofters of East Aurora,

- New York, includes photos of Roycroft campus and of Elbert Hubbard and his family, 1902, 33 pp.
- 6.2 Postcard of the Chapel at the Roycroft village from L.J. Hubbard near East Aurora, NY to Frank Carlock and Stella Morrow of Hudson, IL, January 9, 1912.
 - 6.3 The Roycroft Shops at East Aurora, N.Y. catalog that includes maple syrups and white clover delicacies for sale at the shops, undated.
 - 6.4 Elbert Hubbard book catalog that includes two books written by Hubbard for sale by the Roycrofters, published by Elbert Hubbard II (The House of Hubbard) of East Aurora, New York, undated, 4 pp.
 - 6.5 Advertisement for "A Message to Garcia (Memorial Edition)" pamphlets for sale by Elbert Hubbard II (The House of Hubbard) of East Aurora, New York, undated.
 - 6.6 Advertisement that describes how subscribers to *The Fra* magazine will receive a copy of "A Thousand and One Epigrams," written by Elbert Hubbard, published by the Roycrofters of East Aurora, New York, undated, 4 pp.
 - 6.7 "Elbert Hubbard Library-Museum of East Aurora, New York," pamphlet that includes a biography of Hubbard written by Charles W. Youngers who worked for Hubbard and eventually became the head of Roycroft Bindery, undated, 4 pp.

Folder 7: Thomas W. Knopke

- 7.1 The House of Roycroft business card for Roycroft Bibliosoph Thomas Knopke of Fullerton, California. Includes a passage from the "Anostic Bible" on the back, undated. (2 copies)
- 7.2 "Virginity," *The Wee Willy Fra*, Volume 1, Number 4, 1970.
- 7.3 "Tattletale! Tattletale!," by Thomas W. Knopke, *The Wee Willy Fra*, Volume 1, Number 11, 1970, 3 pp.
- 7.4 "Elbert Hubbard: Mental Attitude," *The Wee Willy Fra*, Volume 2, Number 4, c1971.
- 7.5 "Cells Without Windows," *The Wee Willy Fra*, Volume 2, Number 5, February 1971.
- 7.6 "Change: Truth in Capital Letters," includes a poem titled, "Now," typed on the back of the page, *The Wee Willy Fra*, Volume 2, Number 9, June 1971.
- 7.7 "Burl Foster: Salesman With Power Plus!," *The Wee Willy Fra*, Volume 2, Number 10, July 1971, 2 pp.
- 7.8 "Accountability," *The Wee Willy Fra*, Volume 2, Number 6, March 1971, 2 pp.
- 7.9 Typescript of page 2 of Volume 1, Number 1 of *The Wee Willy Fra*, pages 1 and 3 are not included, c1970.
- 7.10 "Preface to The Anostic Bible from The House of Roycroft," written by Thomas W. Knopke, published by The House of Roycroft of Fullerton, California, undated, 3 pp.
- 7.11 "Revelation," typescript of page 55 of the Anostic Bible written by Thomas W. Knopke, undated.
- 7.12 "Elbert Hubbard's A Message to Garcia," revised by Thomas W. Knopke, published by The House of Roycroft of Fullerton, California, undated. (2 copies)

Folder 8: The Hudson Connection

This folder contains photocopies of the eight-part series "The Hudson Connection" written by Tom Gumbrell for the Pantagraph in 1975. The series follows the lives of Elbert Hubbard and Melville Stone who were both from Hudson, Illinois.

- 8.1 Photocopy of "A Story Behind Two Rocks," *Pantagraph*, November 27, 1975.
- 8.2 Photocopy of "How Stone helped end war," *Pantagraph*, November 28, 1975.
- 8.3 Photocopy of "Hubbard: His Miracle," *Pantagraph*, November 29, 1975.
- 8.4 Photocopy of "And thus began 99 cent stores," *Pantagraph*, November 30, 1975.
- 8.5 Photocopy of "The eccentric Doctor Silas," *Pantagraph*, December 1, 1975.
- 8.6 Photocopy of "Life an adventure to Stone," *Pantagraph*, December 2, 1975.
- 8.7 Photocopy of "For the love of a woman," *Pantagraph*, December 3, 1975.
- 8.8 Clipping from "For the love of a woman," that includes a cartoon drawing of Elbert Hubbard, *Pantagraph*, December 3, 1975.
- 8.9 Photocopy of "Then the Lusitania sailed," *Pantagraph*, December 4, 1975.

Folder 9: Mae Johnston Correspondence

- 9.1 Mae Johnston in East Aurora, NY to Sara Johnston in Hudson, IL describing her trip to Buffalo, NY and the World's Fair, includes envelope, June 8, 1901, 12 pp.
- 9.2 Mae Johnston in East Aurora, NY to Lora Johnston in Hudson, IL describing her becoming a Roycrofter and her time spent on the Roycroft campus, includes envelope, June 17, 1901, 3 pp.
- 9.3 Mae Johnston in East Aurora, NY to Sara Johnston in Hudson, IL describing her time with Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard and answering questions from a previous letter, includes envelope, June 22, 1901, 8 pp.
- 9.4 Mae Johnston in East Aurora, NY to Sara Johnston in Hudson, IL asking when Sara and Lora are coming to visit, includes envelope and a newspaper clipping with hotels available in Buffalo, NY, July 14, 1901, 4 pp.
- 9.5 Roycrofter quote card with a handwritten note from Mae Johnston on the back saying, "I do the illuminating of cards like this will do the books later. How do you think it is?" c1901.
- 9.6 American Express Company receipt received of J. Hubbard and marked John S. Johnston of Hudson, IL, June 17, 1901.
- 9.7 Photocopy of census data on the Johnston family of Hudson, IL, 1900.

Folder 10: Miscellaneous

- 10.1 Photocopy of "From House of Elbert Hubbard," *Pantagraph*, December 4, 1915.
- 10.2 Photocopy of "Recalls House in Which Elbert Hubbard was Born," *Pantagraph*, August 28, 1926.
- 10.3 Photocopy of "Bronze Plates to Be Dedicated for Elbert and Dr. Hubbard," *Pantagraph*, June 21, 1931.
- 10.4 Handwritten correspondence from Mary Hubbard Heath near East Aurora, New York to Mr. Evans in McLean County stating that she is sending Evans a map of Illinois that belonged to Elbert Hubbard, July 6, 1931.
- 10.5 Typescript by Inez Dunn describing a donation of an 1870 map of Illinois that once belonged to Elbert Hubbard to the Historical Society by E.M. Evans. The words "written for Pantagraph" are handwritten on the back, July 5, 1951.
- 10.6 "Head, Heart and Hand: Elbert Hubbard and the Roycrofters," museum exhibit program from the Memorial Art Gallery at the University of Rochester, 1994.
- 10.7 "Getting the Real Message to Garcia," by Thomas Fleming, *MHQ: The Quarterly Journal of Military History*, Winter 2007, pp. 63-74.