

McLean County Museum of History

Miller Park Collection

Processed by
Laura Zimmerman
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 box
COLLECTION DATES:	1861-2024
PROVENANCE:	Gift
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:	Past Perfect #2024.0091

Folder 1: History

- 1.1. "Miller Park," by Ruth Pils, March 6, 1936, Bloomington High School.
- 1.2. "History of Miller Park," by Kelly Ann Norris, August 1992, in partial fulfillment for a master's degree in Health, Physical Education, & Recreation, Illinois State University.
- 1.3. Color printout of "Master Plan" map, April 28, 2000, with explanatory email from Bill Kemp, 2022.
- 1.4. Email from Greg Koos concerning location of Miller's pasture, with map. 2022.

Folder 2: Newspapers, Founding and Planning (1887-1889)

(Pantagraph, unless noted otherwise)

- 2.1 "Public Park," March 14, 1887; "Major's Grove Park," March 17, 1887; "We will vote on two parks," March 19, 1887.
- 2.2 "The Park Movement," March 15, 1887. Bulletin
- 2.3 "Miller's Park," April 5, 1887. Page 3
- 2.4 "A Plea for Miller's Pasture," April 15, 1887. Daily Leader
- 2.5 "The Park Question," April 16, 1887. Daily Leader
- 2.6 "Booming South Park," April 16, 1887. Daily Leader
- 2.7 "The Status of the Park Question," April 2, 1887; "The Park Question Today," April 18, 1887.
- 2.8 "Recapitulation," Vote totals for Miller Park vote, April 19, 1887.
- 2.9 "A Clean Sweep," Vote totals for Miller Park vote, April 19, 1887. Daily Leader
- 2.10 "Bogus Contributions," September 11, 1887. Daily Bulletin
- 2.11 "Miller Park, the Park is Purchased and the Title is Vested in the City," January 20, 1888.
- 2.12 "Park Matters Again," November 29, 1888.
- 2.13 "Miller Park, What it is Proposed to Make of It – An Excellent Plan and an Excellent Report," February 23, 1889.
- 2.14 "Plan of Miller Park," Produced by E.I. Cantine, Journal of Proceedings of City Council of the City of Bloomington, IL, for the fiscal year ending April 30, 1889
- 2.15 Biographical info on Edward Ike Cantine from University of Illinois alumni records with attached email, 2022

Folder 3: Newspapers (1889-1899)

(Pantagraph, unless noted otherwise)

- 3.1 "Trees in Miller Park," February 26, 1889.
- 3.2 "The scene at Miller Park," June 24, 1889.
- 3.3 "Our Parks and Their Uses," July 26, 1889.
- 3.4 "People Want Water," July 14, 1890. Daily Leader
- 3.5 "Nature's Paradise," April 13, 1891. Daily Bulletin
- 3.6 "Fourth of July," June 13, 1892. Daily Leader
- 3.7 "Two Handsome Fountains," November 7, 1893
- 3.8 "New Pump and Main," February 3, 1894.
- 3.9 "Work at Miller Park," June 18, 1895.
- 3.10 "A Great Attraction," July 20, 1895.
- 3.11 "Skating at the Park," December 5, 1895 and "Skating at the Park," December 6, 1895.
- 3.12 "Skimming on Steel," January 5, 1896. Daily Leader

- 3.13 "Bloomington's Park, How it Was Acquired and What it May Become," April 1, 1896. Daily Leader
- 3.14 "Baptized in Park Lake," May 9, 1898.
- 3.15 "Fountain for Miller Park," July 13, 1898
- 3.16 "Donations to Miller Park," August 10, 1898.
- 3.17 "Fishing Day at the Park," August 17, 1898.
- 3.18 "The Miller Park Swans," September 2, 1899.

Folder 4: Newspapers (1900-1949)

(Pantagraph, unless noted otherwise)

- 4.1 "The Dome at Miller Park," August 20, 1900.
- 4.2 "At Miller Park," November 6, 1900.
- 4.3 "Speedway at Miller Park," June 26, 1901.
- 4.4 "Puddling the core," July, 17, 1901.
- 4.5 "Miller Park Boat Rules," July 15, 1902.
- 4.6 "The Miller Park Lakes Are Now United," September 24, 1902.
- 4.7 "New Pavilion at Miller Park," August 29, 1906.
- 4.8 "The New Pavilion is Opened at Miller Park," May 23, 1907.
- 4.9 "For Colored People," June 27, 1908.
- 4.10 "When the Band Plays at the Park," August 31, 1908.
- 4.11 "Park Boat House Is Burned Down," and "Inventory of Losses," April 5, 1909.
- 4.12 "Miller Park, New Terminal Pavilion," April 24, 1909.
- 4.13 "Add Stein's Grove to Miller Park," May 26, 1909.
- 4.14 "Miller Park Gets a Gila Monster," October 10, 1909. Daily Bulletin.
- 4.15 "Gold Fish Pond for Miller Park," August 29, 1910.
- 4.16 "Spring Activity Apparent in Miller Park," March 14, 1911.
- 4.17 "Sixth in Parks of Twelve Illinois Cities," March 27, 1911.
- 4.18 "Free Fish Day in July," June 5, 1911.
- 4.19 "Dr. W. T. M. Miller Dead," August 6, 1913.
- 4.20 "One of Miller Park's Newest Attractions," March 14, 1914.
- 4.21 "Miller Park Budding Forth," March 23, 1919. Daily Bulletin
- 4.22 "Swimming at Park Lake Today," June 6, 1920. Daily Bulletin
- 4.23 "Miller Park a Famous Resort," December 23, 1920.
- 4.24 "Fountain at Park in Operation Now," May 11, 1923
- 4.25 "Miller Park Lily Pond Being Emptied; to Make Flower Bed," April 11, 1924.
- 4.26 "Big German Siege Gun Owned by Legion," February 27, 1926.
- 4.27 "Bloomington's Latest Park Improvement," July 10, 1926.
- 4.28 "Won't be Long Now Until Miller Park Flower Beds Will Be Riots of Color," May 26, 1928.
- 4.29 "Park Receives 75 New Trees," March 31, 1929.
- 4.30 Miller Park Aerial Picture, 1936 Progress Edition.
- 4.31 "New Rule Allows Trunks," June 30, 1937.
- 4.32 "Wonders If Backyard Statue Is Twin of Kansas City Piece," December 12, 1938.
- 4.33 "Miller Park, Oldest and Best of Bloomington Playgrounds," July 15, 1944
- 4.34 "Box Buried in Bridge in 1910 Will Go Back Into New Span," July 8, 1945.
- 4.35 "10 Miler Park Boats Off to Wabash Flood," Mar 9, 1945

- 4.36 "Notice: The Alton Junior Limited will make the initial trip of the year," August 24, 1945.
- 4.37 "500,000 Attend Band Concerts During Summer at Miller Park," September 9, 1945.
- 4.38 "10 Miller Park Boats off to Wabash Flood" March 9, 1945
- 4.39 "15 Ft. Lagoon Bridge Completed At Park," May 6, 1945.
- 4.40 "Child Drowns at Miller Park," August 17, 1948.
- 4.41 "Scrap Drive Replacement," March 4, 1949.
- 4.42 "Park has New Gun Now," April 26, 1949.
- 4.43 Notes on bathhouse construction, moving, razing, etc. from 1903-1926.

Folder 5: Newspapers (1950-1999)

(Pantagraph, unless noted otherwise)

- 3.1 "Picnic Tables Rise From Center Street," May 7, 1950.
- 3.2 "Rhodeses' Grist Mill to Get Resting Place at Miller Park," October 2, 1952 and "Mill Stones Now Park Display," October 4, 1952.
- 3.3 "Miller Park Swimming Controversies Recalled," May 20, 1957.
- 3.4 "Bridge Succumbs To Age, Weather," April 21, 1960.
- 3.5 "Bridge Story Illustrates Plight of Park System," August 21, 1966.
- 3.6 "Pollution source not found; park swimming ban continues," August 8, 1973.
- 3.7 Recollection of woman directing her daughter to swim in "nice part," Sep 27, 1987.

Folder 6: Newspapers (2000 -)

(Pantagraph, unless noted otherwise)

- 6.1 "Pavilion's 100th birthday party coming up," October 19, 2006.
- 6.2 "Miller Park Lake weathered racism, pollution," August 19, 2007.
- 6.3 "Wants Fountain," June 25, 1932, plus email from John Elterich

Folder 7: Newspapers (Undated)

(Pantagraph, unless noted otherwise)

- 7.1 "The New Stone Bridge, Miller Park," Undated. Daily Bulletin
- 7.2 "A Scene on Sylvan Lake at Miller Park during the late skating carnival," Sketch by Robert Sydney Smith. Undated. Sunday Eye

Folder 8: Recreation and Events

- 3.1 Notice for the Baptist Sabbath School picnic, July 30, 1861. Pantagraph
- 3.2 Souvenir program of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the City of Bloomington, May 10, 1900
- 3.3 Second Annual Odd Fellows and Rebekahs' Union Picnic for Orphans' Home Children, June 24, 1909.
- 3.4 Advertisement for Miller Park Rides, August 21, 1966. Pantagraph
- 3.5 Publicity postcard: Bloomington-Normal Symphony "Pops in the Park," July 25, 1981
- 3.6 City of Bloomington Fall Festival flyer, October 14, 2007
- 3.7 Farm Bureau and I.A.A. Picnic and Playday program, August 31, year unknown.
- 3.8 "A recreational oasis in Miller Park," undated
- 3.9 Email with flier for Patriot Day at Miller Park, Sep 11, 2014. Includes parade, foot race, band concert, etc.
- 3.10 50th Anniversary Celebration (of Blm Parks, Rec, & Cultural Arts), Sep 29, 2018.

- 3.11 "The Fantasticks," program, July 25-August 10, year unknown.

Folder 9: Miller Park Cannons

(Pantagraph. unless noted)

- 3.1 "Franklin Park Cannon," May 13, 1902.
3.2 "Franklin Park's Rejoinder," May 15, 1902.
3.3 "Another View of It," May 16, 1902.
3.4 "Can We Compromise," May 16, 1902.
3.5 "To Replace the Cannon," May 27, 1902.
3.6 "Gun That Belched Forth Death Now Rests Peacefully in Miller Park," November 11, 1927.
3.7 "Miller Park Cannon Stand(sic) as Enduring Monuments to County's Progressiveness," Nov 23, 1930.
3.8 "More Than 25,000 Attend July 4 Ceremony, Games and Fireworks," July 5, 1939.
3.9 "Scrap Drive Replacement," Mar 4, 1949.
3.10 "Bidding war: Hutch offered up to \$90,000 for Civil War-era cannons," November 11, 2000. Hutchinson News
3.11 Email, November 30, 2000, from Michael Wright to Greg Koos re: Civil War Military Museum
3.12 Letter from Civil War Artillery Museum to Keith Rich, Director Parks and Recreation, November 20, 2000
3.13 Letter from Civil War Artillery Museum to Keith Rich, Director Parks & Recreation, November 29, 2000
3.14 Handwritten notes by Museum Executive Director Greg Koos, undated
3.15 "Vets of Spanish War Surrender," 2 March 1949.
3.16 "Park Has New Gun," 26 April 1949.
3.17 Email from Rochelle Gridley covering short description of guns, February 27, 2024.
3.18 "The condemned cannon...arrived yesterday," February 26, 1880.
3.19 "Great Guns," about history of field-pieces, March 15, 1880.

Folder 10: Miller Park Pavilion

- 10.1 Miller Park Pavilion History, by Ashley Harris, Bloomington Parks & Recreation, 2005
10.2 Two photos of pavilion (by Drake & by Mayes) in the *Alumni Aegis* (Blm High School) 1906.

Folder 11: National Register Draft 2007

- 11.1 National Register of Historic Places application, draft, August 3, 2007.

Folder 12: Miller Park Outdoor Summer Theatre

- 12.1 "Any Wednesday," 1976.
12.2 "The Diary of Anne Frank," Aug 1978.
12.3 "The Man Who Came to Dinner," June, 1979.
12.4 "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown," July, 1979.
12.5 "The Curious Savage," June, 1980.
12.6 "Li'l Abner," August, 1980.
12.7 "George Washington Slept Here," July 1981.

- 12.8 "Annie," 1983.
- 12.9 "My Three Angels," 1984
- 12.10 "Because Their Hearts Were Pure," 1984.
- 12.11 "Exit the Body" 1987
- 12.12 "Dirty Work at the Crossroads," 1988.
- 12.13 "Oliver!" July, 2018. In conjunction with Blm Center for Performing Arts (BCPA)
- 12.14 "Bubbling. Brown Sugar" n.d.
- 12.15 "Lilies of the Field" n.d.
- 12.16 "The Music Man" n.d.
- 12.17 "Damn Yankees" n.d.
- 12.18 "The Teahouse of the August Moon" n.d.
- 12.19 "Charlotte's Web" n.d.
- 12.20 "Purlie" n.d.
- 12.21 "The Fantasticks" n.d.
- 12.22 "Big" n.d.
- 12.23 "Chicago" n.d.
- 12.24 "Rumors" n.d.
- 12.25 "A Chorus Line" n.d.
- 12.26 "Deadwood Dick" n.d.
- 12.27 "Bubbling Brown Sugar" n.d.

Folder 13: Miller Park Bell

- 13.1 Photo scan, 2018.
- 13.2 Upcoming removal of bell from Central Fire Station, *Pantagraph*, Sep 7 1952.
- 13.3 Scans of fronts of four postcards of Central Fire Station.
- 13.4 "She'll be Merry if City Will Ring up Sale to Her," *Pantagraph*, Jan 7 1952.
- 13.5 "Fire Bell, Sleek in Gilt, Now Mounted in Miller Park," *Pantagraph*, Jun 26 1952.
- 13.6 "25 Years Ago" *Pantagraph*, quoting Jan 19, 1952 article.
- 13.7 "25 Years Ago," *Pantagraph*, quoting June 26, 1952 article regarding move to Miller Park, etc.
- 13.8 "Painting Miller Park bell," *Pantagraph*, captioned photo, Jul 2 2005.

Folder 14: Miller Park "Colored" Beach

- 14.1 Letter from MCMOH librarian Bill Kemp to Illinois State Historical Society attaching Historical Marker Application, February 15, 2018. 4 pp.
- 14.2 Drainage Map of Miller Park Lake from "A Sanitary Survey of Miller Park Lake Bloomington, Illinois," by Charles J. Morrison, 1950. From Masters thesis for ISNU. 3pp.
- 14.3 Letter from Blm Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts director Jay Tetzloff approving placement of historical marker, October 31, 2017. 2 pp including photo of site.
- 14.4 Google Earth and Google Maps overhead views of location of beaches and proposed marker, 2017. 3 pp.
- 14.5 City Council minutes with materials prohibiting any further discrimination at the beaches from *Journal of Proceedings of the City Council of the City of Bloomington*, July 3-24, 1908. 5pp.
- 14.6 Seventeen (17) *Pantagraph* articles on the beaches, 1908-57. 17 pp.

- 14.7 Photocopies of letters from NAACP requesting Health Dept. inspection of bathing facilities and reply, July 30 and August 7, 1950.

Folder 15: Bloomington Steam Locomotive Commission

General

- 15.1 By-Laws, Bloomington Steam Locomotive Commission, 7 pp.
15.2 "The Steam Locomotive," Office of Secretary, Bloomington Steam Locomotive Commission, 1 p. overview.
15.3 Announcement of July 8, 1958, meeting, Office of Secretary, Bloomington Steam Locomotive Commission, 1 p.

1959 Dedication

- 15.4 Brochure, "'639' Bloomington's 'First Citizen,'" Nov. 1, 1959 dedication (4 copies).
15.5 Press release, New York, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad Company, Nov. 1, 1959, announcing their presenting a retired steam locomotive to the City of Bloomington.
15.6 Two information fliers (1-page and 2-page) on locomotive (undated).
15.7 Thank you letter from City of Bloomington, Mayor Bob McGraw to Leo R. Clark, Nov. 6, 1959.
15.8 Thank you letter from New York, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad to Leo R. Clark, Nov. 11, 1959.
15.9 Letter, Thomas R. Finson to Greg Koos, May 21, 1990, about donated copies of above letters.

Newspaper Articles (*Pantagraph*, unless noted)

- 15.10 "Engine Drive Getting Up Some Steam," June 24, 1959.
15.11 "Veteran Iron Horse Retired To Pasture in Miller Park," October 16, 1959.
15.12 "And This Was the Engine That Could" (photograph), October 18, 1959.
15.13 "Tender Beast of Burden" (photograph), October 23, 1959.
15.14 "Park Engine Dedication Set For Sunday," October 27, 1959.
15.15 "Club to add 'historic' caboose at Miller Park," August 22, 1996
15.16 "Last ride of the Miller Park locomotive" ("Back Then" column), August 25, 1996.
15.17 "Steam locomotive a Miller Park fixture since 1959" ("Page from Our Past" column), October 15, 2006.

McLean County Rail Club

- 15.18 By-laws of McLean County Rail Club, 7pp carbon copy. Presumably 1960.

Folder 16: Central Illinois Railroad Club

- 16.1 Brochure about club, c. 2005

Folder 17: Miscellaneous

- 17.1 "A Place of Rest," scan of poem by Lyman Tay, July 1935. Plus email Jan 2023. 3 sheets.
17.2 "Miller Park Fountains," writeup of info found in newspaper articles from 1887-1932, 2023.

Folder 18: Soldier's Monument & Other Military Info.

- 18.1 "The Miller Park Soldier's Monument," by Jack Jeeffe in his *Back in the Day* column, Nov 11, 2022. 2 pp.

- 18.2 Ad: "For 53 years . . ." from Higgins Jung-Kleinau Co showing sketch of McLean County's Soldiers' Monument," in August 26, 1930 Centennial Issue.
- 18.3 "The French Tank at Miller Park" by Jim Hoppe, 2108.
- 18.4 Wereth 11 marker, memorializing soldiers of 333rd Field Artillery Battalion in World War II, 2020. 9 sheets including prints of photos and newspaper articles.
- 18.5 "Veterans spiffing up WWI tank at Miller Park," Apr 5, 2014, 2pp.
- 18.6 Email originally from Bloomington Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Dept about WWI tank and cannon at Miller Park. Attachments include summary sheet on the German Howitzer, City Council Minutes, etc. March 24, 2014. 6 pp.
- 18.7 "Miller Park Soldiers and Sailors Monument contains the following....". Syfert, 10 March 1936. Original in McLean County Soldiers' and Sailors' Collection (Folder 3), 1 pp.

Folder 19: National Register Research 2022 (Compiled by Museum intern Morgan Bueza)

- 19.1 Letter from McLean County Museum of History to Illinois State Preservation Office, November 1, 2022.
- 19.2 Illinois State Historic Preservation Office Preliminary National Register Evaluation form. [November 1, 2022].
- 19.3 Preliminary Evaluation Form Narrative: History and Significance, 8 pages.
- 19.4 Original plan of Miller Park, 1889, and current map with numbered current resources.
- 19.5 McLean County GIS Consortium map of Miller Park area, August 1, 2002.
- 19.6 Photo prints of Miller Park, including photos of comparable structures.