

McLean County Museum of History

Stern Family Collection

Processed by Stephanie Pierson, Spring 2013
Reprocessed and updated by Carol Straka, Summer 2023

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	2 boxes (C and SP flat)
COLLECTION DATES:	1906-2023
RESTRICTIONS:	None
PROVENANCE:	
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	Past Perfect #2025.0117
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	See also Judy Markowitz Collection; Library: - <i>A Great Depression courtship, 1932-1933: written to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the marriage of Gertrude Miller and David Stern</i> - <i>In the middle : growing up in the middle of America, in the middle class, in the middle of the 20th century</i> - <i>The David Stern family of Bloomington</i> - <i>Letters from Judy Stern (Harrison-Markowitz) opening the Bloomington Asahikawa, Japan, sister city relationship, 1962</i>

Brief History

The Stern family moved to Bloomington about 1905, where Jacob Stern opened Stern's Furniture Co. The firm was located at 504-06 North Main Street in Bloomington. Sam Stern was born May 6, 1903, in St. Louis, son of Jacob and Rose Iker Stern. He took over the business with his brothers after their father's death in 1916. The company expanded into the next-door location in 1939, after the death of Sam's brother Harry Stern in 1937. In spring of 1982, Sam Stern and his nephew Harry Miller Stern moved Stern Furniture Co. to 502 Eldorado Road, near Veteran's Parkway. In 1986 the firm held a going out of business sale and closed.

Jacob and Rose Iker Stern reared five children: Harry M.(1898-1937), Sadie Stern Grossman (1899-1957), Maurice B. (1900-1965), Samuel (1903-1982), and David (1905-1973).

Sam Stern (1903-1982) served in the Army during WWII and never married. An active community member, he served as chairman of the St. Joseph's Hospital Medical Center and the Moses Montefiore Temple building committee. He also was a member of numerous organizations, including the Bloomington Masonic Lodge and Bloomington Consistory. Sam received the Golden Book of Good Deeds Award from the Exchange Club of Bloomington in 1979, and the Humanitarian Award from the Pilot Club in 1978. In his spare time, he enjoyed visiting the circus and Miller Park Zoo and traveled often.

Harry M. Stern (1898-1937) was born in St. Louis and came to Bloomington with the family about 1905. A member of Wade Barney Masonic lodge, B'nai B'rith, and Moses Montefiore Temple, he died suddenly in 1937 at age 29. At the time of his death, he was general manager of the family furniture company.

Scope

The Stern Family Collection contains furniture store documents including newspaper articles, advertisements, and financial records; plus individual family members' receipts, property records, registration and identification cards for military and clubs, financial records, personal and business correspondence, school work, and other miscellaneous items.

Box and Folder Inventory

Box 1

A Furniture Store

Folder A1 General

Newspaper articles (*Pantagraph*, unless noted)

- A1.1 "J. Stern Furniture Store Is To Enlarge Quarters," May 11, 1925.
- A1.2 "Stern Furniture Company to Add Display Space," March 28, 1939, p.5
- A1.3 "Sterns Add New Furniture Warehouse" 4 January 1941. Photo included.
- A1.4 "Sterns Build to 50 Year Mark," Oct 5, 1955
- A1.5 "Pickets March for Teamsters at Stern Store," Nov 12, 1962.
- A1.6 "Stern's Strike by Teamsters in Second Day," Nov 13, 1962.
- A1.7 "Store Reports Picket Threat To Employees," December 16, 1962.
- A1.8 "Stern Store Strike Enters Third Week," Nov 27, 1962.
- A1.9 "Stern Furniture Co. buys Oakland Bowl," (partially obscured title, top of article) November 26, 1979.
- A1.10 "Stern's move shuts down Oakland," January 28, 1982.
- A1.11 "Alley plans roll ahead," February 10, 1982.
- A1.12 "Sterns to make future on 'new main street,'" April 25, 1982, two pages.
- A1.13 "Lanes to close Friday night," April 25, 1982 (included in above article).
- A1.14 "Stern Furniture plans to go out of business," March 14, 1986.

Photos

- A1.15 "Furniture Front Remodeled," photo of front of Stern's, December 1, 1952 *Pantagraph*.
- A1.16 Print of two photos on one sheet, Aug 1955. Shows two Stern's Furniture trucks, Aug 1955.
- A1.17 Jacob, Dave and Sam Stern, sons of founder, pictured on 50th anniversary, October 1955 *Pantagraph*.

Advertisements (*Pantagraph*, unless noted)

- A1.18 Stern's Serenaders and its presumed predecessor Yellow Jackets: newspaper articles and ads, copy of postcard, emails about same, 1933-35 and 2020.
- A1.19 Bloomington *Sunday Bulletin*, May 22, 1927.
- A1.20 Photocopy of program for Amateur Musical Club, Nov 9, 1931, with Stern's ad.
- A1.21 Photocopy of program for Amateur Musical Club, Nov 11, 1935, with Stern's ad
- A1.22 Winners of Stern's amateur radio contest, Dec 11, 1935. WJBC radio
- A1.23 "Stern's January Clearance!" January 10, 1968.
- A1.24 "Stern's Inventory Liquidation, Moving Sale," full page, April 23, 1982.
- A1.25 J. Stern Furniture "...Going Out of Business Sale," April 19, 1986, p. 5.

Folder A2 Miscellany

- A2.1 "J. Stern Furniture Company" year by year info from city directories, 1906-1988. 2 copies, one annotated by Sybil Stern Mervis in 2009.
- A2.2 Empty envelope with J. Stern return address, hand dated March 28 1915.
- A2.3 Tags & Cards: La-Z-Boy special tag, Springfield Bag & Burlap Co tag, two 1934

American Furniture Mart registration cards for Harry M. Stern, Springfield business card.

A2.4 Letter from Capen Insurance Agency of Bloomington to Fred Wollrab about renewing insurance for 508-512 N. Main St. Bloomington, April 1, 1944. Wollrab holds a mortgage on this location.

A2.5 Four unused J.Stern Furniture Co. purchase order forms, no date.

Folder A3 Customer Payments

A3.1 Two unused receipts for J. Stern Furniture Co.

A3.2 Receipt for Frank J. Robistske, Mar 11, 1926. Stamped "Admitted in Evidence"

A3.3 Seven checks for J. Stern or Stern's Furniture Co by customers, 1924-1927.

A3.4 Mortgage for Mr. R.L. Rock of Bloomington to J. Stern Furniture Co, Nov 8, 1921. Includes list of items purchased and payments required.

A3.5 Customer payment book for Mrs. Pearl Ford of Normal, May-Jul 1955.

Folder A4 Financial Documents

A4.1 Eight checks signed by J. Stern or Sam Stern, 1912-1919. All drawn on German-American Bank or American State Bank in Bloomington.

A4.2 "The Expansive File" binder compliments of J.F. Hammond in Bloomington for Mr. J. Stern. Includes 16 checks signed by J. Stern, 1909-1914, and two promissory notes, 1915.

A4.3 Bound daybook with record of daily sales at Stern's from Nov 1922 to July 1923. In 2022, donor Sybil Mervis identified it among Harry Stern's files.

Folder A5 Bank Account Books

A few of the passbooks for the furniture company contain a cancelled check or statement.

A5.1 Jan 14 1907 to Aug 4 1910 German-American Bank

A5.2 Aug 4 1910 to Dec 30 1912 German-American Bank

A5.3 Dec 30 1912 to Mar 1 1916 German-American Bank

A5.4 Mar 1 1916 to Aug 4 1917 German-American Bank

A5.5 Jan 24 1919 to Mar 2 1920 German-American Bank

A5.6 Feb 9 1921 to Oct 16 1921 American State Bank

A5.7 Nov 1 1923 to Aug 2 1926 American State Bank

A5.8 Aug 2 1926 to Dec 31 1930 American State Bank

A5.9 Aug 31 1936 to May 31 1938 American State Bank

A5.10 Mar 30 1933 to Dec 4 1933 Corn Belt Bank

Folders A6-A8 1962 Labor Dispute

In May 1962, an NLRB (National Labor Relations Board) settlement required Stern's to negotiate with a potential teamsters union local. A 1961 contract with local Leath Furniture was apparently held forth as a model for Sterns in the negotiations.

In November 1962, four employees went on strike at the furniture store after many months of discussions failed to result in a contract. Stern Furniture engaged Bloomington law firm Laudeman and Rolley and later Chicago law firm Winston, Strawn, Smith & Patterson. Ultimately, about December, the employees chose to "throw in the towel," return their union cards, and return to work at Sterns.

Materials related to this dispute include copies of the NLRB settlement, correspondence with both law firms, notes both typed and handwritten, copies of affidavits from Sam Stern and Ray Scogin, brochures and information from Central States Health and Welfare Fund including pension related

materials as well as pension materials from other organizations, a copy of the 1961 Leath Furniture contract, a proposed contract for Sterns, etc.

These materials have been primarily left in the order received, although rusting staples and clips were removed.

Folder A6 **Labor Dispute - 1**
Folder A7 **Labor Dispute - 2**
Folder A8 **Labor Dispute – 3**

B Sam Stern

Folder B1 Sam Stern - General

- B1.1 Photocopy of Bloomington School of Music and Expression recital program, May 4, 1916. Sam performs cello solo; Sam and Maurice both in orchestra.
- B1.2 14 membership, registration, and identification cards including clubs, military, and voter's registration, 1942-1975 and undated.
- B1.3 Christmas Club pocket calendar
- B1.4 Untitled poem bout military service with addresses on back
- B1.5 Military Immunization Register, 1942-1944 immunizations; 2 cards
- B1.6 Soldier pay record
- B1.7 General notice from War Dept. on Army Emergency Relief, May 29, 1942
- B1.8 Chemical Warfare Pocket Reference card (included with item 1.5)
- B1.9 Tickets to Amateur Musical Club production; October 24 (no year); 1 page, 1 envelope "from Miss Christian" [presumably May Christian] with handwritten note from same, 2 tickets.
- B1.10 American State Bank blank deposit slip, address on back
- B1.11 Hartman's (Bloomington) letterhead, various numbers and calculations written on it; 1 page.
- B1.12 Certificate of Involuntary Withdrawal – Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry; October 7, 1941; 1 page, 1 envelope (stapled).
- B1.13 Letter from Hugh Darling of Bloomington to Senator Scott Lucas introducing Sam Stern; July 25, 1943; 1 page, 1 envelope.
- B1.14 Letter from Secretary of Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite (name illegible) to Sam Stern acknowledging his rejoining after military service; November 21, 1944; 1 page.
- B1.15 Carbon copy of letter from David Stern to Mr. and Mrs. Paul R. Watkins of Los Angeles about searching for and locating Mr. Darrah's personal watch and diamond cluster pin in the furniture at the store; March 17, 1945.
- B1.16 "Sam Stern Star" Special 75th birthday newsletter for Sam Stern; May 6, 1978, 8 pages including individual's reminiscences, photos, etc.
- B1.17 "Sam Stern named year's humanitarian," by Pilot Club, *Pantagraph*, May 18, 1978.
- B1.18 Sam Stern funeral remembrance card
- B1.19 Obit, *Pantagraph* August 2, 1982.
- B1.20 Three calling cards, one enclosure envelope to Sam from Milton Barkson, gag blotter.

Folder B2 Sam Stern – Personal Correspondence

- B2.1 From Harold at Chaddock School in Quincy, IL, to Sam in Bloomington advising that he left TN and is attending a boy's school in Quincy, etc, Feb 4, 1917. Plus envelope.

- B2.2 From E. Neuleton(?) at Rochelle, IL, to Sam at Bloomington about junior [high schoolers] pranks, dictation medals, personal plans, etc., May 11, 1919. Plus envelope.
- B2.3 From Veran Florent at Kalamazoo, MI, to Sam at Bloomington, Aug 3, 1919, about life on the road with the band, potential to live in Chicago, etc. Four sheets plus envelope.
- B2.4 Ed Ledeier at Washington, DC, to Sam and Maurice, Sep 19, 1919, about having arrived and attending school, seeing the parade and sights, old school days. Plus envelope.
- B2.5 From Paul Burke at Peoria to Sam at Bloomington, Nov 9, 1919, about being unable to come to Bloomington at present, Sam's trio music work, offering music lessons if Sam can come to Peoria regularly, etc. Plus envelope.
- B2.6 From John T. Gernon(?) at Wheeling, WV, to Sam, Aug 25, 1925, about road travel challenges, closing with Stern's store motto, etc. Plus envelope.
- B2.7 From John T. Gernon(?) at Washington, DC, to Sam at Bloomington, Aug 28, 1925, about travel observations. Plus envelope.
- B2.8 Postcard from John T. Gernon(?) in NYC to Sam at Bloomington, postmarked Aug 30, 1925.
- B2.9 Postcard from Marie at Rosary College in River Forest, IL, to Sam in Bloomington, Sep 22, 1925?
- B2.10 Postcard from E.N. in Ashton, IL, to Sam in Bloomington with holiday wishes, Dec 22, ??
- B2.11 Empty envelope from Washington DC, Feb 21, 1920.
- B2.12 Wedding invitation for Lt. Governor Paul M Simon to Jeanne M. Hurley, April 1960. Plus note from donor including "Harry told me that Dad would give his Oxford cloth suits to Paul."

Folder B3 Sam Stern – School Days

- B3.1 School work, English, no date.
- B3.2 School work, Arithmetic, Grade 8, 1917. 4 sheets.
- B3.3 Mimeographed letter to the "unparalleled champions" from "The Hopefuls" about banquet, no date. Two sides of one sheet.
- B3.4 Handwritten [draft?] of letter from Samuel Stern and Walter Martens, Nov 27, 1918, about a Thanksgiving dinner "in celebration of our recent typewriting(sic) victory" being impossibly soon and declaring themselves the "unparalleled champions." 2 sheets.
- B3.5 Mimeographed letter from "The Runners Up" to Brother in Victory, Dec 17, 1918, with humorous discussion of grand banquet at Morrison Hotel in Chicago. 2 sheets.
- B3.6 Mimeographed letter from "The Unparalleled Champions" to Our Fellow Comrades, acknowledging their Dec 17 letter and continuing the banter, no date. 2 page mimeograph plus 3 page handwritten draft.
- B3.7 Tongue-in-cheek mimeographed letter to "Dear friend" from "The Unparalleled Champions Per Sam Stern," no date.
- B3.8 Certificate of Efficiency from Sam Stern as student at Bloomington High School from Remington Typewriter Company, Nov 1918.

Folder B4 Sam Stern - Misc. Property Records

- B4.1 Newspaper clipping from Pantagraph; January 1, 1910
- B4.2 Quit-claim deed between Gertrude Markas and Sam Stern; December 19, 1938
- B4.3 Correspondence from Sam Stern to Theodore Bennett; July 26, 1945
- B4.4 Correspondence from Sam Stern to Raleigh Showens; August 8, 1945; 1 page, 1 receipt
- B4.5 Real Estate Tax Receipt from Maude E. Beebe; April 27, 1946; 1 page, 1 envelope
- B4.6 Memorandum agreement between Sam Stern and Quinton Freehill; May 5, 1950

- B4.7 Notice of Public Hearing; November 13, 1956; 4 copies, (stapled)
- B4.8 Contract for Sale of Real Estate between Errol and Bonny May Gillespie and Sam Stern; February 5, 1958
- B4.9 Settlement Sheet between Gillespie and Sam Stern; March 29, 1958
- B4.10 Warranty Deed between Bonnie May Gillespie and Errol E. Gillespie; March 29, 1958
- B4.11 Trustee's Deed with People's Bank of Bloomington; December 8, 1958; 2 pages
- B4.12 Warranty Deed between A.O. Eades and Sam Stern; August 31, 1962
- B4.13 Warranty Deed between Rose A. Moews and Sam Stern; September 16, 1968
- B4.14 Warranty Deed between Dorothy L. Hubert Baldwin and Sam Stern; June 27, 1973
- B4.15 Warranty Deed between Ralph and Mary F. Raney and Sam Stern; September 7, 1973

Folder B5 Sam Stern - Receipts 1909-1944

- B5.1 Check from J. Stern for New York Life Insurance; March 25, 1909
- B5.2 Checks from J. Stern, German-American Bank; March 4 & 24, 1910; 2 checks
- B5.3 Ownership Certificate from Moir Hotel Company; June 1, 1931; 1 page, 1 ticket
- B5.4 Receipt from Peoples Bank – safe deposit vault – December 19, 1936
- B5.5 Receipt from Biasi's Drug Stores; August 25, 1937
- B5.6 Receipt from Moberly and Klenner; October 28, 1937
- B5.7 Receipt from Smith's Drug Store; July 1, 1938
- B5.8 Correspondence from Chicago and North Western Ry. and Union Pacific Railroad Department of Tours to Sam Stern; August 27, 1938; 1 page and 2 business cards (stapled)
- B5.9 Receipt from A.T. Fagerburg; September 21, 1938
- B5.10 Receipt from E.M. Stevenson, M.D.; February 27, 1939
- B5.11 Receipt from W.H. Mast, General Contractor; April 8, 1939
- B5.12 Receipt from Corn Belt Bank; December 19, 1939
- B5.13 Receipt from Eugene J. Murphy – public accountant; January 15, 1940
- B5.14 Receipt of dues for Lakeside Country Club; June 6, 1940
- B5.15 Receipt from Moberly and Klenner; July 2, 1940
- B5.16 Receipt from Lee De Vary De Soto Plymouths; May 6, 1940
- B5.17 Receipt from Frank X. Moews; August 31, 1940
- B5.18 Receipt from Eugene J. Murphy – public accountant; January 25, 1941
- B5.19 Receipt from Moore's Luggage Shop; January 31, 1941
- B5.20 Receipt of dues for Lakeside Country Club; March 15, 1941
- B5.21 Receipt from Frank X. Moews; June 1, 1941
- B5.22 Receipt from Ulbrich's Harness and Luggage Store; December 8, 1941
- B5.23 Receipt from W.D. Alexander; March 9, 1942
- B5.24 Receipt from W.H. Atkinson, M.D.; October 1, 1942
- B5.25 Past Due Notice from National Bank of Bloomington – safe lease; August 3, 1943
- B5.26 Request for donation from McLean County Tuberculosis Association to Sam Stern; December 1, 1943
- B5.27 Receipt from National Life Insurance Company; September 1944
- B5.28 Receipt from New York Life Insurance Company; November 1944; 2 pages (pinned)
- B5.29 Receipt for postage; December 11, 1944

Folder B6 Sam Stern - Receipts 1945-1948

- B6.1 Receipt and correspondence from Veterans Administration National Service Life Insurance; January, February, and March 1945; 3 pages, 2 envelopes

- B6.2 Receipt from Model-Paris Garment Storage; May 14, 1945
- B6.3 Statement of dues for Wade Barney Lodge No. 512; July 12, 1945
- B6.4 Receipt from Michael Pontarelli, Inc. Contractors; July 23, 1945
- B6.5 Receipt from Theo A. Rost, M.D.; September 1, 1945
- B6.6 Receipt from Brokaw Hospital; September 25, 1945
- B6.7 Receipt from Lang-Fuller Printing Company; September 27, 1945
- B6.8 Receipt from Fuller Osteopathic Clinic; September 28, 1945
- B6.9 Receipt from Ulbrich & Kraft; November 17, 1945
- B6.10 Certificate of Transfer of Used Commercial Motor Vehicles between Glen A. White and J. Stern Furniture Company; January 22, 1946; 5 pages
- B6.11 Receipt from Blacksmith Shop of Mr. Arthur A. Simmons; March 7, 1946
- B6.12 Receipt from National Wine and Liquor Store; May 31, 1946; 2 pages (stapled)
- B6.13 Receipt from L.T. Fruin M.D.; June 1, 1946
- B6.14 Correspondence from Bruce L. Crosthwait, National Life Insurance Company; August 21, 1946
- B6.15 Correspondence from State Farm Insurance Company to Stern Furniture Company; October 30, 1946
- B6.16 Correspondence from J. Stern Furniture Company and Chief Elmo Waters; December 20, 1946
- B6.17 Receipt from Peoples Bank – safe deposit vault – December 28, 1946
- B6.18 Statement for Abraham Lincoln Lodge No. 1133 dues; January 1, 1947
- B6.19 Receipt from Meritt A. Gifford – public accountant; February 25, 1947
- B6.20 Receipt from Veterans Administration National Service Life Insurance; March 1947; 1 page, 1 envelope
- B6.21 Receipt from Lee De Vary De Soto Plymouths; April 12, 1947
- B6.22 Receipt from Daily Pantagraph; March 31 1947
- B6.23 Statement of dues for Bloomington Consistory and Coordinate Bodies; May 15, 1947
- B6.24 Receipt from Frank X. Moews; May 28, 1947
- B6.25 Receipt from Duncan Liquors; September 8, 1947
- B6.26 Statement of American Legion dues; September 22, 1947
- B6.27 Receipt from Moberly and Klenner; September 23, 1947; 2 pages
- B6.28 Receipt from Lee De Vary De Soto Plymouths; December 1, 1947
- B6.29 Correspondence between American State Bank and Sam Stern; January 2, 1948; 1 page, 1 envelope (stapled)
- B6.30 Receipt from Lee De Vary De Soto Plymouths; March 31, 1948
- B6.31 Receipt from Moberly and Klenner; September 9 & 24, 1948; 2 pages (stapled)
- B6.32 Receipt from Nierstheimer Bros; November 19, 1948

Folder B7 Sam Stern - Receipts 1949-1954

- B7.1 Receipt from Meritt A. Gifford – public accountant; April 1, 1949
- B7.2 Receipt from Brokaw Hospital; December 27, 1949
- B7.3 Receipt from L.T. Fruin M.D. and H.C. Lyman Jr. M.D.; December 30, 1949
- B7.4 Receipt from Moore's Luggage Shop; February 1, 1950
- B7.5 Receipt from National Bank of Bloomington – safe lease; January 15, 1951
- B7.6 Memorandum from Dudley C. Johnson, Gifford & Company Inc.; July 6, 1951
- B7.7 Receipt from Phil-Kron Stables; December 3, 1951
- B7.8 Receipt from Peoples Bank – safe deposit vault – December 24, 1951
- B7.9 Receipt from Gharrett and Horney General Contractors; February 2, 1952; 3 pages (stapled)

- B7.10 Receipt from Model-Paris Launderer and Dry-Cleaners; April 26, 1952
- B7.11 Receipt from A. Washburn and Sons Florists; April 26 & 30, 1952
- B7.12 Receipt from Bart the Printer; June 13, 1952
- B7.13 Receipt from Mrs. Tellis A. Harper Catering Service; June 19, 1952
- B7.14 Receipt from National Wine and Liquor Stores; June 20, 1952; 8 pages (stapled)
- B7.15 Receipt from Emmet-Scharf Electric Co.; June 30, 1952
- B7.16 Receipt from Bringham's Rental; July 1, 1952
- B7.17 Receipt from Chas B. Eskridge & Son Truck Line; August 1, 1952
- B7.18 Receipt from W.H. Roland; August 12, 1952 and October 1, 1952
- B7.19 Receipt from Gailey Eye Clinic; November 24, 1952
- B7.20 Receipt from Sprengel's Fine Foods; February 2, 1953
- B7.21 Request for donation from Bloomington Black Camel Club; April 2, 1953
- B7.22 Thank you letter and receipt from Mennonite Hospital, Jun 5, 1953.
- B7.23 Statement of dues for Bloomington Young Men's Christian Association; July 18, 1953
- B7.24 Receipt from Sam's Subscription Service; September 8, 1953
- B7.25 Receipt from M.B. Read? October 1, 1953
- B7.26 Receipt from Novak Flowers; October 26 & 29, 1953
- B7.27 Receipt from W.C. Tinervin, D.D.S.; December 1, 1953
- B7.28 Receipt from Brandtville Complete Truck Service; December 19, 1953; 2 pages (stapled)
- B7.29 Receipt from Freese & Jefferson, Inc.; December 31, 1953
- B7.30 Receipt from Ulbrich & Kraft; January 5, 1954
- B7.31 Receipt from Twildo Petland; June 1, 1954
- B7.32 Statement of dues for Wade Barney Lodge No. 512; July 8, 1954
- B7.33 Receipt from Jenny Wren Shop; August 17, no year

C Harry M. Stern (1898-1937)

Folders C1-C4 – 1930 Investment Account Books

Includes June 12, 2013, letter from Harry's niece Sybil Stern Mervis to the Museum explaining donation of Harry Stern material. Letter also includes biographical information.

From the year 1930, Harry Stern's account book contains numerous financial transaction receipts and investment-related correspondence, particularly with Hornblower & Weeks, a brokerage firm. The majority of the files are arranged alphabetically by company name. In addition, there is a written record of stock and bond transactions for the year 1930, the company's financial statement, telegrams, letters, receipts for postage, a business card, Stern Furniture Co. stationary, financial-related handwritten letters, and a newspaper advertisement for real estate bonds. Many documents are addressed to Box 664, or 504 or 506 North Main Street in Bloomington, with some addressed to 1320 East Grove Street, Bloomington. In addition to investment papers for Harry Stern, there is correspondence from and addressed to Rosie Stern. There is a letter from the shareholders protective committee addressed to Maurice Stern at 217-22 Unity Building in Bloomington. The first account book contains 1930 letters from the United States Treasury Department to both Harry Stern and Samuel (Sam) Stern regarding their 1928 taxes.

Folder C1 Harry Stern Account Book 1930-A

Folder C2 Harry Stern Account Book 1930-B

Folder C3 Harry Stern Account Book 1930-C

Folder C4 Harry Stern Account Book 1930-D

Folders C5-C6 1933 Investment Account Books

Folders C5 and C6 contain Harry Stern's investment-related documents from 1933. It includes lists of stocks and bonds bought and sold in 1933, lists of dividends and interest earned from investments, and various correspondences with brokerage firm Hornblower & Weeks. The folder also include telegrams, postage receipts, and company reports. Most of the correspondence is with Hornblower & Weeks and addressed to Harry Stern at Box 364 in Bloomington. However, there are letters from the United States Treasury Department to Both Harry Stern and Rosie Stern, and a cancelled check mailed to Harry Stern at 506 North Main Street in Bloomington. There is also an informational page that provides instructions on using an account box.

Folder C5 Harry Stern Account Book 1933-A

Folder C6 Harry Stern Account Book 1933-B

Folder C7 Rosie Stern

- C7.1 Book of Corn Belt Bank checks. One check used on July 30, 1935, to Harry Stern to transfer Rosie Stern funds to American State Bank.
- C7.2 Bank passbook for Mrs. J. Stern by HMS. One entry – August 10, 1935, balance.
- C7.3 Book of American State Bank checks. Oe used to withdraw full balance of Rose Stern, August 12, 1935.

Folder C8: Harry Stern School Papers

- C8.1 Student papers for grammar and history in 6th and 8th grades at Edwards School, Bloomington, c 1910-1912. 9 sheets.
- C8.2 Gift agreement with Sybil Stern Mervis, 2023.
- C8.3 Harry's Bloomington High School report cards (5),1912-1916

Folder C9: Harry Stern Estate Papers

- C9.1 American State Bank check cook, including stubs for checks used by estate administrator Sam Stern, 1938-1939.
- C9.2 Handwritten note about refund, nd.

Folder C10: Harry Stern Miscellany

- C10.1 Letter from *Daily Pantagraph* requesting up-to-date photo and information, October 30, 1928.
- C10.2 Valuation of Maggini violin from Orendorff Music Shop in Bloomington, Oct 9, 1931.
- C10.3 Valuation of "Maggini" violin from George M Beyer of Bloomington, Aug 10, 1932.
- C10.4 Three complimentary Amateur Musical Club tickets, 1932-1933 and 1933-1934 seasons.
- C10.5 Receipt for summer membership to Bloomington YMCA, May 4, 1936

D Other

Folder D1 Miscellaneous

- D1.1 Photocopy of photo of Chicago American News Boys, Bloomington, IL, undated.
- D1.2 Photocopy of photo of Edwards School class, 1911. David Stern identified.
- D1.3 Print of scan of photo of Edwards School class, 1911-1912. David Stern identified.
- D1.4 Print of scan of photo of Edwards School class, c. 1914. David Stern identified.
- D1.5 Photo scan of letter from Miller Brewing Co. to Jacob Stern concerning cancelling downtown Bloomington building lease in response to Bloomington voting to go dry, including possible Supreme Court reversal of Women's Suffrage, April 30, 1914.
- D1.6 School work of Maurice B. Stern, English class, no date. 2 sheets.
- D1.7 Letter from Paddleford & Lamy stock brokerage to "Morris B. Stern" confirming order for 100 shares of William Oil O'Matic, July 27, 1927.
- D1.8 Pledge for \$25 to Illinois Wesleyan Music Building Fund, March 21, 1928. Signed by Mrs. J. Stern.
- D1.9 Ticket for Irish Free State Hospitals' Sweepstake, June 1935.
- D1.10 Promotional item for *The Farmer's Review*, Chicago, no date. 3 copies.

Folder D2 Sybil Stern Mervis

Sybil Stern Mervis (b. 1935) is the daughter of David and Gertrude Miller Stern. David was the youngest child of Jacob and Rose Iker Stern.

- D2.1 Two date books: The Norcross Blue Book, 1947 and My Calendar and Memory Jogger for 1949, both used by Sybil and stamped "Spier's Book and Toy Store" of Bloomington. Gift Agreement, 2024.
- D2.2 Color scan print of front & back Sybil Stern's membership card for "The Loft," a supervised dance and recreation center for Bloomington teens, Oct 1955. Plus note from donor and related 1960 newspaper article on "The Loft."
- D2.3 Name tag for Sybil Stern Mervis from Bloomington High School Class of 1953 50th reunion, 2003.
- D2.4 "Growing up Jewish in Bloomington in the mid-twentieth century" as recalled by Sybil Stern Mervis, January 2010. 7-page typescript.
- D2.5 "Delicious Brownies, my trademark around town," by Mervis, sent November 2022.
- D2.6 "The pleasure of a Victory Garden, helping America win the war," by Mervis, sent February 2023. 2-page typescript.
- D2.7 Gift agreement, Apr 22, 2025.
- D2.8 Flyer for exhibit opening "In the Middle" at Illinois State Museum Lockport Gallery, October 18, 2025.

Loose Items:

Salesman's Rules

Bound book of rules containing four pages on rules guiding salesmen including "Up-man" and "Down-man" for J. Stern Furniture Company. No date.

Box 2 (SP – flat box)

Weekly News Review issues. Several are annotated.

“A national text for students of current history” published in Washington, D.C.

1. Donor letter, February 22, 2023
2. Sep 12, 1938
3. Sep 19, 1938
4. Sep 26, 1938
5. Oct 3, 1938
6. Oct 10, 1938
7. Feb 13, 1939
8. Feb 20, 1939
9. Feb 27, 1939
10. Mar 6, 1939
11. Mar 13, 1939
12. Mar 20, 1939
13. Mar 27, 1939
14. Apr 3, 1939
15. Apr 10, 1939
16. Apr 17, 1939
17. Apr 24, 1939