

McLean County Museum of History

Water Collection

Processed by
Kathryn Kerr
June 2023

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1872 -
RESTRICTIONS:	None
PROVENANCE:	various
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:	Occasional option: Note of related items s/as photos, scrapbooks, & other collections

Scope

The file contains various reports, newspaper clippings, maps, and ephemera regarding the water supply in Bloomington-Normal and McLean County. Topics covered include impoundment, water and sewage treatment, Lake Bloomington, Mackinaw River, and Mahomet Aquifer.

Folder Inventory

A Newspaper Articles

Folder A1 1800s (*Daily Pantagraph*, unless noted)

- A1.1 "A Plea for Water Works," *Daily Leader*, April 4, 1872.
- A1.2 "Water Works," *Daily Leader*, May 7, 1872.
- A1.3 "The Stand Pipe," *Daily Leader*, January 14, 1876.
- A1.4 "Stand Pipe," *Daily Leader*, January 15, 1876.
- A1.5 "The Bloomington Stand-Pipe," *Daily Leader*, January 17, 1876.
- A1.6 "High Water," *Weekly Pantagraph*, January 28, 1876.
- A1.7 "The Stand Pipe Petitions," *Daily Leader*, August 22, 1874
- A1.8 "The city is using ...," January 30, 1877.
- A1.9 "The Source of Power," [re: standpipe], May 26, 1881.
- A1.10 "Bloomington's Blessing," *Daily Leader*, July 4, 1881.
- A1.11 "Nauseating," *Weekly Pantagraph*, August 14, 1885.
- A1.12 "Empty Cisterns," *Daily Leader*, January 11, 1887.

Folder A2 1900 to present (*Daily Pantagraph*, unless noted)

- A2.1 "The Pure Cold Water," *Daily Leader*, July 30, 1891.
- A2.2 "The City Well," February 17, 1897.
- A2.3 "Contract for a Reservoir," August 12, 1905
- A2.4 "Engineer S.S. Nobel on Water Situation," *Daily Bulletin*, September 10, 1909.
- A2.5 "City's Old Water Tower to Come Down," February 10, 1912.
- A2.6 "A Sigh for the Standpipe's Passing," February 23, 1912.
- A2.7 "Tearing Down Standpipe," May 30, 1912.
- A2.8 "Pertinent Facts Relative to Bloomington's Water ...," *Daily Bulletin*, May 30, 1917.
- A2.9 Newspaper photo of Standpipe, September 16, 1950.
- A2.10 "Water Directors Expecting Work to Go Forward Faster: Money Creek Chosen as Best to Impound," January 19, 1928, and explanatory email from Bill Kemp, September 15, 2024
- A2.11 Ad in *Tri-Annual Atlas & Plat Book* for Kickapoo Drilling Company, no date.

B City of Bloomington

Folder B1 Water Works, 1915

- B1.1 Report, "Bloomington Water Worlks and Elwectric Light Plants," E.E. Jones, Mayor, circa 1915, 8 pp., unpagued.
- B1.2 Text of circa 1915 report, typed, 2 pp.

Folder B2 Water Supply, 1917

- B2.1 Historical account of Bloomington water supply, 1917, 9 pp, with two graphs and a table,
- B2.2 Donor's letter, Joseph Orne Evans to Greg Koos, 22 February 2003.

Folder B3 Surface Water Report, circa 1917

- B3.1 Report on Sources of Surface Water Supply for the City of Bloomington, by J. G. Melliush,

Consulting Engineer, [1917], 23 pp.

Folder B4 Groundwater, 1923

B4.1 "Ground Water History at Bloomington," Illinois by Donald H. Maxwell, *Journal of the American Water Works Association*, Vol. 10, No.2, March 1923, pp. 289-297.

Folder B5 Bloomington and Normal Water Committee, 1926

B5.1 Preliminary Report on Water Rate Schedule for Bloomington, Illinois, by L. R. Howson, 11 September 1926, 5 pp.

B5.2 Minutes of the Bloomington and Normal Water Committee, 17 November 1926, 8 pp.

Folder B6 Bloomington Water Company

B6.1 Citizen's Water Supply, Inc. Common Stock Certificate, Ned E. Dolan, 10 shares, 14 April 1927.

B6.2 Citizen's Water Supply, Inc. Common Stock Certificate, Gustav L. Ensenberger, 10 shares, 14 April 1927, with envelope and letter.

B6.3 List of 11 additional investors, no date

B6.4 Letter, Bloomington Water Co. to Gustav L. Ensenberger, acknowledging receipt of certificate, 27 August 1931.

B6.5 Papers relating to the dissolution of the Water Co., including envelope; letter to Directors of the Bloomington Water Company, 22 December 1931; letter from Gifford & Co., auditors and insurers, 22 December 1931, and three accompanying pages of financial statements.

Folder B7 Water Bills

B7.1 Fred Oswald, \$2.50, 31 April 1878.

B7.2 Masonic Hall, \$2.50, 23 March 1883.

B7.3 Mrs. Belle Dickerson, \$0.50, 9 March 1905.

B7.4 M.W. Packard, Seven water bills, 1 September 1887 – 1 March 1988.

Folder B8 Tap Water Reports

B8.1 1999 annual report, 4 pp.

B8.2 2014 annual report, 4 pp.

B8.3 2018 annual report, 4 pp.

B8.4 2020 annual report, 4 pp.

B8.5 2021 annual report, 4 pp.

B8.6 2022 annual report, 4 pp.

B8.7 2023 annual report, 4 pp.

Folder B9 Miscellany

B9.1 Notice to Residents, Lead Service Line, 14 May 2024, 2 pp.

C Lake Bloomington

Folder C1 Early Studies I

C1.1 "Report on Permanent Water Supply for Bloomington, IL, May 1921." Alvord, & Burdic Engineers, Chicago. 27 p. Map to accompany the report.

C1.2 Report (untitled) Alvord, Burdick, & Howson to Municipal Water Co. of Illinois (undated)

12 p.

Folder C2 Early Studies II

- C2.1 “Bloomington and Normal Water Supply Mackinaw River Project May 1926.” Pearse, Greeley, & Hansen, Engineers, Chicago, IL. 13 pg.
- C2.2 “Comparison of Mackinaw and Money Creek Water Supply Projects for Bloomington and Normal Illinois June 1927.” Taylor & Woltman and Alvord, Burdick, & Howson. 18 pg. and 4 maps.
- C2.3 Mid 1940s Army Corp of Engineers large scale flood control project for Illinois, email from Bill Kemp to several persons, 10 August 2022.

Folder C3 Lake Bloomington, A Modern Miracle

- C3.1 “A Modern Miracle: Lake Bloomington,” by Mary Hubbard Heath, published by Bloomington Water Co., 15 p. booklet, 3” x 6 ¾,” reprinted from *Roycrafter Magazine*, 1931.

Folder C4 Newspaper Articles (*Daily Pantagraph*, unless noted)

- C4.1 “Would Take Until 1929 to Complete Mackinaw Water Supply Project,” May 15, 1926.
- C4.2 “Plans for Dam, Spillway, Pumping and Treatment Plant,” March 17, 1929.
- C4.3 “Water Project Work to begin During Week,” March 17, 1929.
- C4.4 “Scenes During Transformation of Money Creek Valley Into Site for Bloomington Lake,” April 14, 1929.
- C4.5 “Land Bought at Lake Site,” April 24, 1929.
- C4.6 “City Reservoir Gets Lake Water,” March 25, 1930.
- C4.7 “Completion of Soft Water Impounding System Viewed as Opening,” August 26, 1930.
- C4.8 “Lake Bloomington” advertisement by Bloomington Water Company, August 26, 1930.
- C4.9 “Burst of Fireworks Closes Centennial: Lake Project is Dedicated,” August 31, 1930.
- C4.10 “Lake Bloomington Dedicated at Formal Ceremony,” aerial view, August 31, 1930.
- C4.11 [Aerial views of Lake Bloomington and the previous farmland and river], November 20, 1946.
- C4.12 “Lake Drownings Can Be Reduced” August 7, 1949.
- C4.13 “Group Acts to End Lake Deaths” August 13, 1950.
- C4.14 Three articles on boat casualties, April 1955.
- C4.15 “City Offers Advice, Help in War on Cistern Hazard” September 26, 1965.
- C4.16 “Logging Cleared Way for Lake Bloomington” March 16, 2008.
- C4.17 “Village Issues Water Warning” *The Stanford Mail*, January 9, 2022.
- C4.18 “Hudson Library’s History Room Top 20” *The Normalite*, January 12, 2023.

Folder C5: Miscellany

- C5.1 Post card, published by Bloomington News Agency, no date,
- C5.2 Fishing permit, adults 25 cents each, no date.
- C5.3 Map, prepared and published by the Lake Bloomington Association, photocopy, 1974.
- C5.4 Map with emphasis on indigenous names—Kickapoo, “Potowatomie,” and “Iriquois” areas; reverse reads, “photo of map used in directory of cottage owners at Lake Bloomington – Given by Ron Smith Aug – 1955.”
- C5.5 Map, City of Bloomington Engineering Department, printed December 2, 2001.
- C5.6 Bloomington Water Co. advertisement, 1930.
- C5.7 Placemat? Davis Lodge Restaurant, Chaunce Conklin, Host, undated

- C5.8 Brochure, Davis Lodge, 2018. .
- C5.9 Note on water plant in Morris W. Jones's *History and Biographical History of Money Creek Township*.
- C5.10 "Some History of the Water Supply for Bloomington, Illinois 1831 – 2009, prepared for a presentation by Edgar E. Lundreen, Jr. to Bloomington Rotary Club, September 24, 2009, 12 pp.
- C5.11 "Bloomington Water Purification Plant: Treatment Processes," 8 pp., date and author unknown.

D Sewers

Folder D1 Newspaper Articles

- D1.1 "Sewerage: The Subject Again Considered," *Daily Leader*, June 22, 1875.
- D1.2 "The Main Street Sewer," *Daily Leader*; January 7, 1876.
- D1.3 "The Sererage Problem," February 8, 1879.
- D1.4 "Something of a Sewer," *Daily Leader*, August 8, 1879.
- D1.5 "System of Sererage," *Daily Leader*, September 30 1892.
- D1.6 "The Valley Sewer," March 27, 1899.
- D1.7 "Monroe Street Sewer," December 14, 1899.
- D1.8 "Description of Sewage Treatment Plant of the Bloomington and Normal Sanitary District," May 1927 14 p. with photos., April 6, 1928.
- D1.9 "First Steps Starting Sewage Plant Taken," May 29, 1928.
- D1.10 "The Sewage Treatment Plant Looking North from the Oakland Road," photo Jun10, 1928.
- D1.11 "New Sewer Bids Satisfy City," December 31, 1946.
- D1.12 "Board Explains Proposed Sewage Plant Improvement," includes sketch of facility, March 11, 1963.
- D1.13 "1930s storm sewer project draining work," no date.

Folder D2: Miscellany

- D.2.1 "Pacific Flush-Tank Company," article and advertisement from 1929 *Municipal Index*, pp. 613-614.
- D.2.2 "Sewagescapes: Urban Growth and Topography of Sewage Districts in Central Illinois," by Anastasia Ervin, 2020, Illinois State University, 34 pp.
- D.2.3 Notice of sewer work, 14 December 2022.
- D.2.4 Public notice of sewer repair, 20 April 2023.
- D.2.5 Water reclamation district to issue \$1million in bonds for improvements, Charlie Schlenker WGLT news, 13 June 2023.
- D.2.6 Email exchange regarding question, "When did [Bloomington] get sanitary sewers?" Answered by Museum Curator of Digital Humanities Torii More, 21 August 2024, 1 p.

E Mackinaw Dells Project

Folder E1 Newspaper Articles (*Pantagraph*, unless noted)

- E1.1 "Council's Interest Revived in Plan for Mackinaw Dam," April 14, 1964.
- E1.2 "Arends Asking New Study of Mackinaw Dam Project," April 28, 1964.
- E1.3 "U.S. Engineers to Explain Details of Mackinaw Dam," May 15, 1964.
- E1.4 "\$37Million Mackinaw Dam Still Years Away," June 6, 1964.
- E1.5 "Mackinaw Dells Project Gets Woodford Veto," June 9, 1964.
- E1.6 "Mackinaw Dam Study Authorized," June 27, 1964.

- E1.7 "Rep. Arends Starts Action for Mackinaw River Dam," May 29, 1965.
- E1.8 "Mackinaw River Basin Fund Wins Favor in Washington," June 17, 1965.
- E1.9 "Mackinaw Dam Gets First Cash," August 20, 1965.
- E1.10 "Mackinaw Dam Survey Money in Signed Bill," October 30, 1965.
- E1.11 "Mackinaw Dam Hearing Set by U.S. Engineers," April 5, 1966.
- E1.12 "Decries Stop-Gap Water Plan," letter to the editor, April 17, 1966.
- E1.13 "Mackinaw River Basin Dam Hearing Interests Normal," April 19, 1966.
- E1.14 "Proposed Mackinaw Dam Opposed by Land Owners," May 3, 1966.
- E1.15 "Another View of Dells Project," letter to the editor, no date.
- E1.16 "Twin Cities Gird for Dells Hearing," no date.
- E1.17 "Engineers Set Ground Rules for Hearing," no date.
- E1.18 "Rep Michel Asks \$30,000 for Added Dells Dam Study," May 4, 1966.
- E1.19 "Dirkson Joins in Bid for Basin Study Finds," May 4, 1966
- E1.20 "B-N Must Grow Together or Wither Separately," May 6, 1966.
- E1.21 "Mackinaw River Watershed Holds Future of 100,000," May 7, 1966.
- E1.22 "Mackinaw—Future Water Source?," May 9, 1966.
- E1.23 "Officials of Nearby Towns Think Dells Dam Coming," May 10, 1966.
- E1.24 "Upper Mackinaw Land Use Could Affect Any Project," May 10, 1966.
- E1.25 "Twin City Water Supply, Time Fast Running Out," May 11, 1966.
- E1.26 "Dam for Mackinaw Basin Still Political Decision," May 12, 1966.
- E1.27 "Downstream Long Victim of Flooding," May 1, 1966.
- E1.28 "Mackinaw River Watershed," May 14, 1966.
- E1.29 "Mackinaw Tributary Names Give Insight to Early People," May 17, 1966.
- E1.30 "Mackinaw Dam Hearing Crowded," *Peoria Journal Star*, May 18, 1966.
- E1.31 "Six Mile Lake Bond Issue to be Submitted to Voters," April 2, 1967.
- E1.32 "Comparison Report Favors Dells for Site of New Dam," February 22, 1969.
- E1.33 "City Council to Discuss Water Issue," March 4, 1969.
- E1.34 "'United Effort' Sought for Dells Water Site," March 9, 1969.
- E1.35 "Dells City Choice," March 11, 1969.
- E1.36 "Renewal Program Goes to Council," April 22, 1969.
- E1.37 "New Dam Study? ...," December 12, 1969.

Folder E2 Miscellany

- E2.1 Postcard to Jim Englehorn, Pantagraph, from James Rarick(?) no date.
- E2.2 Handwritten note with population figures for communities in and near McLean County, no date.
- E2.3 Unofficial map of proposed Mackinaw Dells lake and dam, no date.
- E2.4 "Time Table for Study f Mckinaw Riber Basis," 20 July 1964, 3 pp.
- E2.5 City of Bloomington Water System (report) 5 November 1964, 2 pp.
- E2.6 Letter to "Bob" from Jim Englehorn re: proposed lake, 11 April 1966.
- E2.7 Memo from Chester C. Zweng re: meeting about proposed lake, 14 April 1966.
- E2.8 Notice of Public Hearing on Improvements in the Mackinaw River Basin, Illinois for Development of Water Resources, John C. Mattina, Department of the Army, 13 April 1966.
- E2.9 Letter to Jim Englehorn, Pantagraph, from Robert L. Pinkerton, Tri County Regional Planning Commission, 21 April 1966.
- E2.10 Mackinaw River Watershed, report, 21 April 1966, on *Daily Pantagraph* letterhead, with maps, 8 pp.
- E2.11 McLean County Environs, suggested study and planning area, prepared by L. LeFeanre(?),

- May 1966.
- E2.12 Basic Reasons for the Mackinaw Dells Dam, 4 pp., no date.
 - E2.13 Remarks of Congressman Robert R. Richel before the House Appropriations Sub-Committee on Public Works, 2 May 1966. Attached note to Jim Englehorn from Bill Pitts.
 - E2.14 Telegram 4 May 1966 to editor of Pantograph (sic) from Everett McKinley Dirksen.
 - E2.15 Letter from L.C. Arends to John G. Mattins, re: Mackinaw River hearings, 18 May 1966.
 - E2.16 Draft of a 3-page resolution with cover letter from R. M. Prach to Gordon Bl. Jaeger, 22 July 1966.bhbhn
 - E2.17 Status Report for Mackinaw River Dam Project Donald W. Ferguson, 22 January 1969.
 - E2.18 Resolution re-opposing the construction of a dam in Woodford County, IL on the Mackinaw River, from Woodford county Board of Supervisors, 11 March 1969.
 - E2.19 Status Report—Surveys, Mackinaw River, 31 March 1969.
 - E2.20 Letter from S. W. McAllister, Manager, City of Bloomington to Lt. Colonel Barnes, Corps of Engineers, Re: Mackinaw River Basin Flood Control Study, 30 April 1969.

F Mahomet Aquifer

Folder F1 General

- F1.1 “The Mahomet Aquifer: A Transboundary Resource in East-Central Illinois.” David R. Larson, Edward Mehnert, and Beverly L. Herzog. Illinois State Geological Survey, Champaign, IL. *Water International*, pp. 170 – 180, June 2003.
- F1.2 Coalition to Stop CO2 Pipelines, advertisement regarding threat to aquifer, *Pantagraph*, May 29, 2024.

G Miscellaneous

Folder G1 Correspondence

- G1.1 Email, Museum volunteer Bill Wasson to Jim Bertolet and others, regarding township / rural water pumps, 30 September 2024.

Folder G2 Brochures

- G2.1 “Welcome to the Mackinaw Valley Trail,” developed by the League of Illinois Bicyclists and the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, circa 2024.
- G2.2 “Evergreen Lake & Lake Bloomington Watersheds,” McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District, trifold brochure, c. 2025, w/ Jim Rutherford Conservation Scholarship 2025 informational sheet and application form.