

Inventory of the

DeKalb County Historical Society
DeKalb, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 3

INTRODUCTION

The DeKalb County Historical Society deposited its records at the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on March 17, 1978. Additional material was donated by Christine Engstrom on October 14, 1991. Additional records were added at various times.

Property rights in the records are held by the DeKalb County Historical Society; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the materials in the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 2.75
Number of containers: 4
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 3

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The records in this collection document the activities of the DeKalb County Historical Society from 1972 to 1986. The records in this collection fall into two series. The first series contains constitutions, minutes (1972-1976), and newsletters (1973-1986) which reveal the scope of the society's programs and projects designed to preserve the heritage of DeKalb County. Printed materials, photographs, and slides focus on events sponsored by the Society and the historical celebrations of towns throughout Illinois. Nearly all the records of the Society prior to its revival as an active group in 1972 appear to have been lost. Nevertheless, the materials are particularly useful for studying the role of a local historical society in the community.

The second series contains the papers of Harriet Wilson Davy which were donated by her granddaughter, Christine Engstrom. Mrs. Davy was responsible for editing the DeKalb County history From Oxen to Jets, which was published in 1963. The files consist of correspondence, research, and rewrites of various subjects for the book. Two copies of the book can be found on the county history shelf in the Reading Room.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The DeKalb County Historical Society organized as early as 1902, but experienced low community involvement through the 1950's. The Society disbanded until January 1972 when local interest increased. Members composed and adopted a new constitution and by-laws, and elected Gary Moe president. These people, interested in preserving local history, gathered together to discover and collect materials that illustrated DeKalb County's heritage. By 1978 the Society had located and recognized several historic landmarks, reproduced county histories, participated actively in oral history, and increased membership.

In the spring of 1990 the DeKalb County Historical Society merged with the Genealogical Society of DeKalb County to become the DeKalb County Historical-Genealogical Society. Their goal of preserving local history continues to be actively pursued.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

African Americans
Boone County, Flora Township
British Americans
Croatian Americans
DeKalb, History
DeKalb County (Ill.)
DeKalb County Historical Society
Diaries, 1840-1869
Ethnic Groups
Finnish Americans
German Americans
Hispanic Americans
History-- Societies
Italian Americans
Korean Americans
Lithuanian Americans
Norwegian Americans
Serbian Americans
Sycamore (Ill.)
World War II

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Series I. Historical Society Records		
1	1	Historical Background on the Society
	2	Constitutions, 1972, 1974, 1990
	3	Legal Documents/Museum Laws, 1965-1973
	4	Meeting Agendas and Minutes, (1972-1976), (1997-2001)
	5	Correspondence, 1930-1960
	6-8b	Correspondence, 1971-1978, 1995-2001
	9	Treasurer's Reports, 1972-1977
	10	Atlas-Plat Book Sales Accounts, 1975-1976
	11	Information on Book Reproductions, 1972-1973
	12	Insurance Policy, 1973
	13	Newsletters, 1973-1986
	14	Programs and Ideas, 1972-1977
	15a	Membership Lists, 1930, 1973-1976, 1980-1981
	15b	Board of Directors Lists, 1991-2003
	16	Volunteers' Jobs, 1973
	17	Annual Report Notice, 1902
	18	History Book Bibliographies, DeKalb County Public Libraries, 1976
	19	Oral History Highlights on Local History, 1969-1977
	20	DeKalb County Residents' Historical Accounts, n.d.
	21	Historical Markers, n.d.
	22	Northern Illinois Historical Informational and Celebration Brochures, (also Boone County), n.d.
	23	Index to the Combination Atlas Map of DeKalb County (1871), 1976
	24	DeKalb Environmental Statement, 1974
	25	NEH Grant Information, 1977
	26	Kishwaukee College Bicentennial Victorian Crafts Art Fair, 1975
	27	Other Museums to Visit, and Bus Tours, 1974
	28	<u>Iliniwek</u> , Historical Newspaper, 1974
	29	Organizing a Local Historical Society, pamphlet
	30	John Greenhow Diary, 1865
	31	Barb Advertiser Account, 1919-1920
	32	Photographs (31), Negative Strips (9), Slides (2) n.d.
	33	Photographs (8), identified

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	4
1	34	Identification Lists for Selectee Negatives, 1943-1945	
	35-38	Selectee Negatives, 1943-1945	
	39-40	DTHS <u>Kalibre</u> , 1925-1926	
	41	Sycamore Historic District	
	42	"County History Trek" Slide Show , 1972 (36)	
	43	Slides of DeKalb, ca. 1974 (19), Balloon Ascension, 1973 (12)	
	44-45	Unidentified Glass Negatives, (20)	
	46	<u>A Beginning History of Ethnic Contributions to the Development of DeKalb County</u> , by the DeKalb County Historical Society, 1988	

Series II. Material for FROM OXEN TO JETS

2	1	DeKalb Centennial, June 1-16, 1956
	2	Meeting Minute, May 8, 1957
	3	Correspondence, 1957-1966
	4	Publication Correspondence, 1962
	5	Homecoming Banquet, Dr. Rufus B. von KleinSmid, Sandwich, IL, May 11,1963
	6	List of Elected Officials
	7	Miscellaneous Notes
	8	Quotations
	9	List of Manuscripts, Illustrations, etc.
	10	Agriculture
	11	American Association of University Women
	12	Churches
	13	Cotton History
	14	Courts and Courthouses
	15	County Fair
	16	DeKalb County Poor Farm
	17	DeKalb Sanitary District
	18	Early Community Life and Schools
	19	Early Mills
	20	I.L. Ellwood
	21	Family Services Affairs
	22	First Settler in Sycamore
	23	Forest Preserves
	24	Grand Army of the Republic
	25	Granges
	26	League of Women Voters
	27	Mary Ellwood Lewis
	28	Medical

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
2	29	Military
	30	Nehring Electrical Works
	31	Newspaper History
	32	Northern Illinois Regional Library
	33	Northern Illinois University
	34	Panhellenic
	35	Public Libraries
	36	Relations with the Indians
	37	Resurrectionists
	38	Schools
	39	Stage Coach Players
	40	Township and County Government
	41	Townships
	42	Transportation
	43	Underground Railroad
	44	W.W. Wirtz
Oversize Drawer 3, Folder 7		Bicentennial Wagon Train Posters, 1976 (4) DeKalb County Atlas, Proofsheets, 1871, 1892 Society Photographs on Posterboard, n.d. Convention (Kansas City Publisher)
3	1a	Newsletters (Cornsilk), Index, 1976-1998
	1-13	Newsletters (Cornsilk), 1975-1991
4	14-22	Newsletters (Cornsilk), 1992-2007