



Dixon Public Library's Local History Collection Letters and other Papers of Frank E. Stevens Archive Box Contents

Book Contract

Contract and correspondence regarding History of Lee County:

Contract between S.J. Clarke Pub. Co. of Chicago and Frank E. Stevens, re History of Lee County, June 21 1913.

U. S. Library of Congress: Acknowledgement of receipt of History of Lee County and acquisition into Library of Congress collection, signed by Librarian Herbert Putnam, October 8 1921.

Correspondence

TO Frank E. Stevens:

FROM H. J. Brooks, Dixon, IL, Assembly; May 19 1908: Re procuring historical information for Mr. Stevens.

FROM J. W. Clinton, Polo, IL; August 25, and September 4 1913: Re history of Old Galena Trail, with detailed survey notes of Kellogg's Trail.

FROM Robert L. Conn, Deputy Clerk, Illinois Supreme Court Clerk's Office, Springfield, IL; November 14 1913: List of names of attorneys admitted to Illinois State Bar, 1836 and 1842.

FROM James E. Gray, Lee Center, IL; November 24, and November 25 1913: Re history of Haskell family of Inlet Village.

FROM J. W. Clinton, Division Street, Polo, IL; June 12 1914: Request for copy of History of Lee County which had recently been published.

FROM E. Southwick, J. C. Weaver Real Estate Co., Wakefield, Kansas; December 8 1914: Letter accompanying photo of correspondent's father, Attorney Edward Southwick.

FROM Charles Bent, editor, *Whiteside Sentinel*; Morrison, IL; August 21 1915: Reply to request by Mr. Stevens for information on Ethan H. Nichols, one of the appointed Lee County Commissioners who designated Dixon as County seat in 1839.

FROM George C. Dixon, Dixon & Dixon Attorneys, Dixon, IL; October 16 1915: Reply to request by Mr. Stevens for current address of Mrs. Henrietta Richards (daughter of James P. Dixon), who was the first white child born in Dixon.

FROM J. B. Lemmon, Dixon National Bank, Dixon, IL; October 31 1916: Requesting assistance with compiling a history of the Friendship #7 Lodge, inviting Mr. Stevens to attend a Lodge meeting on November 6 1916; account of a trip made by Mr. Lemmon, accompanied by George Dixon, William Barge, Wilbur Crawford, and William C. Andruss, to the site of the Old Frenchman's post on Franklin Creek, where the gentlemen discovered a skeleton.

FROM Marie Gorgas, The Highlands, Washington, D. C.; January 16 1926: Reply to request by Mr. Stevens for information regarding Colonel Adam B. Gorgas.

FROM L. B. Neighbour, County Superintendent of Highways, Lee County Courthouse, Dixon, IL; January 19 1927: Biographical information on Joseph Ogee.

Correspondence

FROM Frank E. Stevens:

TO Miss Mary Winn, Director, Dixon Public Library; January 31, February 4, and February 8, 1920: From office of *Sycamore Tribune*; re donation and shipping of first volumes of Stevens Scrapbooks for acquisition into the Library's collection. NOTE: This was a significant gift, as Mr. Stevens stated, "I am sending some documents which never before have I permitted to leave my possession although importuned so to do many times." He requested "protection" for these books from the public who "does not know how to treat precious documents like these."

TO Edward Vail, Dixon, IL; October 30 1935: From Illinois Military and Naval Dept., Springfield, IL; re research findings on Alexander Charters and brother Samuel Charters, owners of Hazelwood in Dixon, during 1830s – 1840s.

TO Mrs. Margaret Scriven, Dixon Public Library Director; March 15, and March 16, 1937: From Illinois Military and Naval Dept., Springfield, IL; re payment for research conducted by Library Staff for Mr. Stevens.

TO Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Warner, Dixon, IL; from Illinois Military and Naval Dept., War Record Office, Armory Building, Springfield, IL [one of these letters also reveals Mr. Stevens' (presumed) residence address – Hickox Apartments, 631 South Fourth St.]:

May 30 1938 – Postcard addressed to Mrs. Warner: postmarked May 30 1938.

May 31 1938 – Letter addressed to Mrs. Warner, with enclosure -- diagram of Nachusa Hotel, with dates of construction of original structure and later additions.

June 1 1938 – Note addressed to Mrs. Warner, with reference to enclosure of news clipping from *Dixon Telegraph*; no date or subject; news clipping not found.

June 3 1938 – Letter addressed to Mr. Warner by nickname, "Harry", with data concerning the incorporation of the Dixon Hotel Company, which was approved by the Illinois Attorney General as of March 2 1837; states that capital stock was priced at \$20,000. in shares of \$50. each; includes list of the names of the eleven incorporators; notes that the foundation of the front portion of the hotel was laid, but the Panic of 1837 prevented any further construction. Mr. Stevens requested that Mr. Stevens

share this information with his wife, who was doing research for the D.A.R. [Daughters of the American Revolution].

Notes

Working Notes for Manuscript: Research completed by Frank Stevens; typewritten and handwritten notes organized and assembled for manuscript of his two-volume History of Lee County.

PARTIAL LIST of Topics:

Pertaining to establishment of early government and legal matters:

Lee County organized by an act of Illinois General Assembly February 27 1839; names of appointed County Commissioners.

Dixon selected as County seat May 31 1839.

Claim association formed in Dixon 1837, with roster of members.

Legal cases tried in early Lee County Courts: Property disputes, land speculation, claim jumping.

Lee County attached to Illinois Sixth Judicial District; approved January 15 1840.

Lee County Bar Association – Formation approximately 1840, with roster of attorneys and judges.

Illinois General Assembly – Acts passed into law according to session record books.

Pertaining to transportation in early Lee County and environs:

First overland trails: Kellogg's Trail by Oliver W. Kellogg, 1825; Boles' Trail by John Boles, 1826 -- two of the earliest trails surveyed and established in local area commencing in Peoria, passing through Dixon's Ferry, terminating in Galena.

Illinois General Assembly – Appropriation of funding for swamp drainage in low-lying areas and subsequent construction of roads, bridges, railroads; provision for salaries of appointed Road Commissioners.

Newspaper Articles

Eagle's Nest Art Colony, Oregon IL history: *Rockford Morning Star*, Sunday May 20 1934, Page 5 (includes photos); condition fragile.

Dixon History: *Rockford Morning Star*, Sunday May 20 1934, Page 6 (includes photos); condition fragile.

Obituary – Hon. Samuel Dysart, born 1834: no publication, no date.

Obituary – B. F. Shaw, born 1829: no publication, no date.

Description of new school building: no publication, no date, no location.

Other Documents

Book of Minutes of Citizens' Association of Dixon IL: Charter -- April 18 1887 from Secretary of State of Illinois, Henry D. Dement; roster of members 1887; minutes of board meetings May 5 1908, July 24 1908; letter of application for reinstatement May 24, 1910; condition fragile, back cover missing.

Account Ledger: Dixon City Clerk, Jason Ayres, April 1861 – February 1863; condition fragile.

Leaflets addressed to Lee County voters: Proposal and rebuttal documents, 1896 – regarding vote on moving County Seat from Dixon to Amboy.

Lee County Yearbooks: List of Officials, 1911-12 (with signature) and 1915-16.

Poll Book: Roster of Registered Voters -- City of Dixon and rural Lee County with addresses; listed alphabetically (417 names); no date.

Christmas Greeting Card: From William M. Tyne, author of Pioneers of Dixon, Lee County and Vicinity -- historical note on Melugin Grove and first settler Zachariah Melugin (date of death June 19 1842); photo of gravestone.

Invitation Card: From Mayor George C. Dixon regarding event of December 11 1931 at Dixon City Hall -- Honoring 31 former mayors of Dixon; Hon. Frank E. Stevens, Mayor of Sycamore, featured speaker.

Photo: Early Dixon Business District – sepia-toned, mounted, no date; with list of merchants

Book: The First Methodist Episcopal Church, Dixon IL (cover title); The Dixon Methodist Church: Its Founders, and Bits of Its History (title page) -- author Bowman Neighbor; with photos and portraits; published by David C. Cook Pub. Co., c1932; inscribed as gift to Frank Stevens and signed by author (October 3 1932); presented by Stevens to Dixon Public Library (denoted by bookplate); condition fragile, loose cardboard front cover, cellophane tape, library markings, book pocket glued to back cover.

Article: "Brief History of Lee County" written by Frank Stevens, 3 typewritten pages (3 carbon copies)

Article: "Illinois Central Magazine Writes History of Tavern: Dixon Hotel Subject of Article in Current Issue of Magazine"; 2 typewritten pages re history of Nachusa Hotel (no author, no date), with handwritten notes re construction from 1837 through 1870.

Index: Stevens Scrapbooks: Typewritten alphabetical listing of names, places, events, subjects of photos and contents of albums donated to Dixon Public Library by Frank Stevens (prepared by library staff)

Ancillary Materials not in the box

Stevens Scrapbooks: Photo albums compiled by Frank Stevens from his personal collection – 26 volumes comprised of portraits of early residents, buildings, natural areas and historic sites in Lee County and environs, with some newspaper clippings; donated to Dixon Public Library in 1920; condition fair, never circulated; includes digital Index prepared by local historian Ronald Marlow, 7/28/2000; located in Library basement Vault.

Muster Roll -- Brigade of Mounted Volunteers: Roster of Captain John Dement's Company commanded by Brigadier General Samuel Whiteside, Beardstown IL, April 27 1832; each soldier listed by name and rank; framed under glass, frame has brass plate with the legend: "Presented by Frank E. Stevens"; condition fragile; located in Library basement Vault.