



George E. Smith Research
Collection, 1870-1995

Collection 277

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Christine Willson, Summer 2019

Creator/Corporate Name: George E. Smith, Jr.

Inclusive Dates: 1870-1995, bulk 1940-1980

Physical Description: 2 boxes (1 linear ft.)

Language: English

Provenance:

The George E. Smith Collection materials were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives by Amy Felty, daughter of George E. Smith, Jr.

Access:

These records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains the research and findings of George E. Smith, Jr. on one room schoolhouses in Illinois, primarily the Tolono and Sadorus Townships from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s. The collection includes photographs, newspaper articles, and records of correspondences with individuals he contacted for information. A compiled booklet of his findings for the Tolono Township schools is located in the "Schools – Tolono Township Book of Compiled Notes" folder.

Other highlights of the collection include research material for the history of Tolono, Sadorus, and Prairie View, Smith's involvement in the Prairie View Cemetery Association, letters from Lillian Snyder to family and Portia Allyn Smith, and information and newspaper articles about the UIUC Morrow Plots. The collection also includes a manuscript, "Country Schools of Tolono Township."

Arrangement:

This collection is arranged into two series and materials are arranged based on research topic. Items within each folder are organized according to original order.

Subject Terms:

Agriculture
Colfax (Ill.)
Corn
Corn -- Hybridization
Farming
Icarian community
Local history
Maps



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One-room schools
Oral history
Pesotum (Ill.)
Prairie View (Ill.)
Rural schools
Sadorus (Ill.)
Schools
Tolono (Ill.)

Name Terms:

Acco Seed
Allee, Virginia
Baldwin, Estella
Baldwin, John H.
Baldwin School (Sadorus, Ill.)
Baldwin, T.H.
Champaign-Ford Regional Office of Education
Colee, Cecil
Colee, Clyde
Colee, Estella
Colee, Henry
Colee, Julia
Colee, Mae
Corneli Seed Co.
Craw Cemetery (Sadorus, Ill.)
Craw, Ira
Craw, Samuel
Dillon, John
Illinois. State Highway Commission
Luherson, George
Memory Bank Champaign County
Morrow Plots (Urbana, Ill.)
Neal, David
Oxweld Acetylene Co.
Prairie View Cemetery Association
Prairie View Cemetery (Tolono, Ill.)
Prairie View Presbyterian Church (Tolono, Ill.)
Prairie View School (Tolono, Ill.)
Roben, Luella Charlotte
Roberts, Barbara
Sadorus United Methodist Church (Sadorus, Ill.)
Smith Farm Service
Smith, George E., Jr.



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Smith, Portia Allyn
Snapp, John
Snyder, Lillian
Stewart School (Somerset Township, Ill.)
Tolono Community High School (Tolono, Ill.)
Wild Rose School (Tolono, Ill.)

Family Name Terms:

Colee family
Craw family

Container List:

Box 1

Series 1: School Research

Folder 1: Prairie View Cemetery

Booklet on the Illinois Cemetery Care Act, 1947
Financial Reports and notes by Smith while he served as Trustee to the Prairie View Cemetery
Association, 1972-1985

Folder 2: Prairie View Community History

Photocopies of Wednesday club newspaper articles, 1959, 1979, 1984
Photocopy of Wednesday club post card with picture of group, 1909
Correspondence with various individuals concerning information on the schools and church, 1874
Copy of the warranty deed to The Trustees of the Prairie View Presbyterian Church, 1895

Folder 3: Prairie View History Booklet

Compiled booklet of notes on the history of Prairie View and its schoolhouse, Presbyterian Church,
cemetery, and Wednesday Club, 1979. (Booklet covers 1864-198.)
Drafts, typed and handwritten, for the compiled booklet of notes

Folder 4: Colee of Sadorus, IL

Family history, including newspaper funeral notices and service record cards for Colee family
members, 1911-1972
Marriage certificate of Cecil Colee and Estella Baldwin, 1911
Warrant to Julia Colee a plot in the Craw Cemetery, 1940
Baldwin Report Book
Marriage Certificate of John Snapp and Julia Colee (spelled Colle on form), 1905
Photocopy of Baldwin school picture
Funeral notices
T. H. Baldwin, 1958
John H. Baldwin, 1963
Clyde Colee, 1963
Henry Colee, 1971
Mae Colee, 1955
John Dillon, 1961



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1959 Luella Charlotte Roben

Folder 5: "Memory Bank" Champaign County Oral History GES, 1978-80

"History with a Tape Recorder: an Oral History Handbook"

Handwritten notes from Oral History Session, Barbara Roberts Urbana Library Archivist, 1978

Virginia Allee "A Family History Questionnaire" photocopy of pages 152-155

Notes on guidelines for interviews

List of people to be interviewed for Champaign County and Tolono Township history

Notes taken during the interviews

Correspondences with those who were interviewed

Folder 6: Newspaper Articles

Newspaper articles about schoolhouses, 1943-2001

Newspaper article about Craw Cemetery, 1981

Newspaper article on Illinois State Normal school, 1981

Newspaper article about David Neal and West Urbana plat, 1983

Folder 7: Book Resources and Maps

Steward school attendance record, 1911-1913

Scans and transcriptions of Records of Attendance:

Wild Rose, 1911-12, 1922-23

Prairie View, 1914-15

Photocopy of Wild Rose Register, 1911, 1922

Photocopy of Eagle School Register, 1943-1946

Illinois magazine article "The One-room School," September/October 1983

Photocopy of Lothrop's Champaign County Directory pages 430-435, Sadorus and Tolono Townships

Names from Champaign County Directory census, Sadorus and Tolono Townships, 1870

Photocopy of "History of Champaign County, Illinois With Illustrations" pages 50-54, 1878

Notes from Tolono Township records, 1905-1907

State Highway commission question and answers about roads in Tolono Township, 1906

Map of Champaign County, 1878

Maps of Sadorus, Tolono, Colfax, and Pesotum Townships, 1878

Folder 8: Correspondences

Notes on 1897 hitching weights, sent from his niece

Letters of correspondence regarding research into schools, 1978-1982

Letter from Regional Office of Education (1981), Champaign-Ford Counties responding to Smith's inquiry about the schools, giving a list of superintendents from 1857-1981

Personal letters to family that includes updates on Smith's research, 1982

Folder 9: Ephemera

Teachers of Champaign County booklet, 1910-11

Tolono Community High School Annual Commencement booklet, 1936

Chamber's School Souvenir cards, 1897

Eagle School Souvenir booklet, 1904

Wild Rose School Souvenir booklet, 1918

Wild Rose commencement cards, 1897, 1898

Report cards, 1928



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Folder 10: Miscellaneous Notes

Luggage tags and small papers with handwritten notes about schools

Funeral Notices

Ira Craw, 1918

Craw, 1916

Samuel Craw, 1918

George Luherson, 1917

Oxweld Acetylene Company instructions for preparing a Pilot Outdoor Generator for the winter, 1916

Diagram of generator

Folder 11: School and Class Photos

Copy of photograph for Wild Rose School class, with notes, 1939

Copies of class and building pictures, with information, 1938

Photograph of horse and mule tying station, possibly in early Sadorus?

Folder 12: Drafts

Notes and drafts of booklet on Country Schools of Tolono Township

Folder 13: Compiled Booklet

Compiled booklet of research findings of Country Schools of Tolono Township, 1982

Booklet covers, 1822-1979

Folder 14: Lillian Snyder

Articles about Lillian, friend of George Edward Smith Sr.

Letters from Lillian

Folder 15: University of Illinois College of Agriculture

Newspaper articles about schools, 1981, 1976, 1995, 1999

Folder 16: UIUC Morrow Plots

Notes on history of Sadorus United Methodist Church, 1839-1975

Box 2

Series 2: Plant Research

Folder 1: Tolono High School Graduate Listing

1887-1949

List of individuals who graduated Tolono High by year

Folder 2: GES Speeches, Articles, Booklet

Newspaper article GES wrote about farmers and the price system, 1986

Handwritten and typed reflections on Smith's parents, grandparents, and country living, 1977

Copy of Keystone Adaptor Guide booklet for Corneli Seed Company, written by Mr. Smith, 1957

Transcription of talks and articles on corn and hybrids, 1967-1968

Folder 3: School Research

"The Living Museum" magazine, Vol 67, #2 & 3, Summer & Fall 2005

Newspaper articles about schools and the school board

Newspaper articles about schools written by Smith, May-June 1982

Information about pictures taken of schools (pictures not included with)

Photograph of Wild Rose School class, 1896. Includes negative and list identifying individuals.



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Prints and negatives of schools
Transcript of Marion C. Moore dedication, August 5, 1979
Correspondences regarding school research, 1979-1982
Photocopy of Stewart School record of attendance, 1911
Photocopy of Prairie View School record of attendance, 1914
Drafts of school information booklet

Folder 4: GES Bio

Awards and certificates
Family tree
Correspondence with senators, 1973
Acco Seed employment contracts, 1968, 1972
Notes on trip to Indiana, May 25, 1928
Smith Farm Service papers, 1939
Job application for Farm Writer, 1953
Biography and draft, 1969
Correspondences for business and publications, 1967-1984
Keystone Adaptor Guide booklets for Corneli Seed Company, written by Smith
Plant Food Release Pattern and Peak Food Demand booklets for Corneli Seed Company, written by Smith
Newspaper and magazine articles relating to corn or featuring Smith
Keystone sales flyers
Literature on corn
Photographs of Smith, corn, and business groups. Information written on backs, 1948-1975

Folder 5: Music

Comics about talking and singing to plants
Photographs of music plots. Information written on backs, 1963-1965
Articles and a paper on sound's impact on plant growth

Folder 6: GES Music, Effects for Plants

Summary of music study, 1960-1963
Popular Mechanics includes articles about Smith's study, May 1963
Photographs, 1963-1965
Correspondences with Smith regarding music study, 1961-1976
Comics about plants
Newspaper articles about Smith's music research
Newspaper articles about music and talking to plants
Copy of Master copy of music corn trial results, 1963

Folder 7: Music Letters

Letters and correspondences about music and plant study. To Smith or Amy Smith, 1963-1967
Summary of experiments, 1960-1962