

**McLean County Historical Society**  
**Bloomington Band Collection**

**Collection Information**

Volume:	One box.
Dates:	1913-1967
Provenance:	Gift
Restrictions:	None
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
Notes:	See Also: Ashton, Fred T. vertical file See Also: Kadel, Charles S. vertical file

## **Brief History**

Bloomington has several successful municipal bands in the latter half of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth. The Kadel brothers (Charles and Phillip) created the Bloomington Brass Band in the 1870s. The Brass Band was all horns and played at the county fairgrounds and other venues. Seibel's Band was organized sometime in the 1880s. The band's most famous member was Don Von Elsner (brother of opera sensation Marie Litta) who was known for triple tonguing on the cornet. In 1880, this band was taken over by the Masonic fraternity and renamed the DeMolay Band. This band made several trips for concerts, including one to Washington DC. The DeMolay Band produced another famous cornet player, John Skelton.

The Bloomington Band and Orchestra Association was incorporated in 1913. The Association needed to raise \$10,000 to finance the band and to give free public concerts. Bloomington had no municipal tax. The association sold shares to friends, businesses and supporters in order to gain financial backing. Shareholders included: The Pantagraph, C.U. Williams, Carl Vrooman, Kirkpatrick House Furnishing Co. and George P. Davis, among others. The Bloomington Band was in existence until the late 1960s.

Fred T. Ashton was the director of the Bloomington Band Association for twenty years before moving to Michigan to start a fruit farm. Ashton was also a teacher of violin, mandolin, and piano, as well as a piano designer.

## **Scope Note**

This collection contains correspondence, meeting minutes, membership lists, and legal documents and leases.

## **Folder Inventory**

### **Folder 1: Minutes**

- 1.1 Subscription for Stock, signed by share purchasers, with amount of shares purchased and amount paid, no date, 10 pgs
- 1.2 Minutes, loose pages, 1913-1915 (handwritten), 1928-1966 (typed)

### **Folder 2: Financial Records**

- 2.1 Document about levy, approved June 26, 1925
- 2.2 Lease, rent for the second floor of 313 North Main Street, Bloomington, 1933(3 copies)
- 2.3 Lease, rent for the second floor of 313 North Main Street, Bloomington, 1935
- 2.4 Annual Report, Bloomington Band Association (a non-profit), 1938
- 2.5 Response to law suit, Frank Klopp and Earl Klopp vs. Irma M. Klopp, 1939
- 2.6 Report on Case of Withholding Tax, 1943
- 2.7 Legal correspondence 1943(3 items)
- 2.8 Statement of Income and Disbursements, 1946-1947, 1947-1948, and 1948-1949, 1949-1950 (4 items)
- 2.9 Lease, for second floor of 313 North Main Street, Bloomington, 1948 (landlord deceased)
- 2.10 State Farm Insurance policy, for 313 North Main Street, Band Headquarters for \$1,500, 1948
- 2.11 Removal Permit, from State Farm Insurance, move items from 313 N. Main St. to 118 ½ E. Front St., 1948
- 2.12 "Bloomington Band Association, April 30, 1950," balance sheet
- 2.13 Increase Certificate, Aetna Casualty and Surety Company, 1950 (2 items) and correspondence from William Mette to Kaywin Kennedy, 1952
- 2.14 Aetna Casualty and Surety Company, Fidelity Individual Bond, 1945
- 2.15 Payroll Statement, Bloomington Band Association, 1964

### **Folder 3: Concert Proposals**

- 3.1 Proposal for Band Concerts, 1934-1965, include partial schedule of shows and cost of performances (13 items)

### **Folder 4: Annual Reports**

- 4.1 Annual Report 1953, list of names of officers and their addresses
- 4.2 Resolution, 1955, retirement of Julius Griesham from position of Director of the Bloomington Band Association
- 4.3 Annual Report 1955, list of names of officers and their addresses

### **Folder 5: Bylaws**

- 5.1 "Bylaws of the Bloomington Band Association," 1963

### **Folder 6: Fiftieth Anniversary**

- 6.1 "The Bands and Orchestras of Bloomington," by Clark E. Stewart, photocopy, 3 pgs

- 6.2 “Fiftieth Anniversary; A History of the Bloomington Band Association,” typed, 4 pgs; includes lists of subscribers, directors

**Folder 7: Programs and Schedules**

- 7.1 Bloomington Band 1942 Schedule of Concerts, Geo. W. Marton Director.  
7.2 Bloomington Band 1936 Schedule of Concerts  
7.2 Bloomington Band 1932 Schedule of Concerts  
7.3 Bloomington Band Program, Fred Ashton, conductor, no date

**Folder 8: Newspaper Articles**

- 8.1 “Bloomington Band to Play Wednesday at State Fair,” *Pantagraph*, August 20, 1933, photograph  
8.2 “Fred T. Ashton, City Band Director for 25 Years , Dies,” *Pantagraph*, November 3, 1940, p. 12

**Folder 9: Correspondence**

- 9.1 Letter from W.R. Mette, October 25, 1948, regarding Removal Permit  
9.2 Letter from Keith Jump (secretary of Bloomington Band Association) to William Peterson (president of Local 102 of American Federation of Musicians), May 16, 1949, thank you letter for help in promoting band  
9.3 Letter from Lottie Ayers to Mr. Kennedy, May 5, 1952, regarding sheet music  
9.4 Letter from Kaywin Kennedy to Stanley Ballard (American Federation of Musicians), January 28, 1966, regarding questions on contracts between the City of Bloomington and the Band in order to use union members

**Folder 10: Incorporation Certificate**

- 10.1 Incorporation Certificate for Bloomington Band Association, 1913

**Loose Item**

Unbound book, “Property of Bloomington Band Bill Peterson, 1967,” contains list of band members for each concert, alphabetical list of all sheet music owned by Bloomington Band, and personnel list with names, addresses (social security numbers removed, January 2010)