

**McLean County Museum of History**

**Espey Collection**

Processed by  
Gretchen D. Monti  
June 2009

**Collection Information**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: Four boxes

COLLECTION DATES 1870-1887

PROVENANCE Midwestern Archaeological Research Center investigation for the McLean County Historical Society of the Miller-Davis buildings, northeast corner of Front and Main Streets, 1979-80.

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATIVE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

LOCATION: Archives

NOTES: See also Photos- People- Espey  
-Subjects- Miller/Davis Building (various)

## Historical Sketch

The small, brick building at the northeast corner of Main and Front streets is one of the earliest brick buildings constructed in Bloomington. In 1841 businessman James Miller purchased the 101 N. Main Street property, which had been in commercial use, and built the brick structure in 1843-44. The building was continuously used as a drugstore for 117 years, from 1852-1969. In 1978, Herbert and Hannah Livingston donated it to the McLean County Historical Society. The society restored the building in 1980-81, and it remains in commercial use today.

At the present time, the 101 N. Main Street building is adjacent on the west to the David Davis Law Office, 104 E. Front Street, reconstructed by the society. David Davis was a key member of the campaign to elect Abraham Lincoln president in 1860, and subsequently was appointed to the U. S. Supreme Court by Lincoln. The society determined it necessary to reconstruct the law office because the original 1838 building had been incorporated into the 101 N. Main Street building through removal of a common wall in 1895. The Miller/Davis buildings were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

Research indicates druggists occupying the building in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century were:

Larrison & Espey, 1871-72  
John E. Espey, 1873-1884  
Charles H. White, 1884-85  
David O. Moore, 1886-1894

## Scope and Content Note

During the course of the archaeological and historical survey that preceded the 1980 building restoration, pharmacy business records were found in the attic of the 101 N. Main Street building. These records, which constitute this collection, cover the years from approximately 1870 through 1887. Almost all of the records date from the years that John E. Espey owned the business. Although many are in poor condition, they serve as useful documentation of the pharmacy business, medicines and personal toiletries used in the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

The materials are organized in four boxes.

Box 1 contains files of prescriptions, product ads, container labels; a price catalog, and bills of sale from the Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist company at 115 N. Main Street, Bloomington.

Box 2 contains Espey's bills of sale from Marmon and miscellaneous vendors for the years 1870-1885.

Box 3 contains bills of sale from vendors of products sold by Espey such as toiletries and tobacco, as well as from suppliers of fuel and other items and services necessary to operating a business.

Box 4 contains additional bills of sale and receipts, a catalog, applications to purchase liquor, bank account records, booklets and pamphlets.

## Folder Inventory

### Box 1:

- Folder 1 – Prescriptions
- Folder 2 – Products advertisements, container labels
- Folder 3 – Meyer Brothers Druggists price catalogs
- Folder 4 – Bills of sale, miscellaneous to Espey, Nov.-Dec. 1876
- Folder 5 – Bills of sale, Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, Dec. 1876
- Folder 6 – Bills of sale, Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, March 1877
- Folder 7 – Bills of sale, Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, April 1877
- Folder 8 – Bills of sale, Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, May 1877
- Folder 9 – Bills of sale, Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, July 1877
- Folder 10 – Bills of sale, Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, Aug.-Sept. 1877
- Folder 11 – Bills of sale, Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, Nov. 1877
- Folder 12 – Bills of sale, Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, Dec. 1877
- Folder 13 – Bills of sale, Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, Feb. 1878
- Folder 14 – Bills of sale, Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, Aug. 1878
- Folder 15 – Bills of sale, Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, 1878
- Folder 16 – Bills of sale, Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, June 1881
- Folder 17 – Bills of sale, Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, July 1881
- Folder 18 – Bills of sale, Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, Aug. 1881
- Folder 19 – Bills of sale, Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, Sept. 1881
- Folder 20 – Bills of sale, Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, Oct. 1881
- Folder 21 – Bills of sale, Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, Nov. 1881
- Folder 22 – Bills of sale, Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, Dec. 1881
- Folder 23 – Bills of sale, Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, Jan. 1882
- Folder 24 – Bills of sale, Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, March 1882

### Box 2:

- Folder 1 – Bills of sale, Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, April 1882
- Folder 2 – Bills of sale, Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, June 1882
- Folder 3 – Bills of sale, Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, July-Sept. 1882
- Folder 4 – Bills of sale, Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, Oct. 1882
- Folder 5 – Bills of sale, Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, Nov. 1882
- Folder 6 – Bills of Sale: Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, Dec. 1882
- Folder 7 – Bills of Sale: Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, Jan. 1883
- Folder 8 – Bills of Sale: Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, March 1883
- Folder 9 – Bills of Sale: Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, June 1883
- Folder 10 – Bills of Sale: Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, Sept. 1883
- Folder 11 – Bills of Sale: Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, April 1885
- Folder 12 – Bills of Sale: Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, Oct. 1885
- Folder 13 – Bills of Sale: Wm. W. Marmon Wholesale Druggist, Dec. 1885
- Folder 14 – Bills of Sale: Miscellaneous Vendors
- Folder 15 – Bills of Sale: Miscellaneous Vendors
- Folder 16 – Bills of Sale: Miscellaneous Vendors
- Folder 17 – Bills of Sale: Miscellaneous Vendors
- Folder 18 – Bills of Sale: Miscellaneous Vendors

**Box 3:**

- Folder 1 – Bills of Sale: Railroad Shipments
- Folder 2 – Bills of Sale: Clothing, Fittings and Fabrics
- Folder 3 – Bills of Sale: Gas, Coal and Heat
- Folder 4 – Bills of Sale: Grocers
- Folder 5 – Bills of Sale: Hardware and Building Materials
- Folder 6 – Bills of Sale: Miscellaneous Purchases
- Folder 7 – Bills of Sale: Printers and Booksellers
- Folder 8 – Bills of Sale: Printers and Booksellers
- Folder 9 – Bills of Sale: Sundries, Toiletries, Scents and Creams
- Folder 10 – Bills of Sale: Sundries, Toiletries, Scents and Creams
- Folder 11 – Bills of Sale: Tobacco
- Folder 12 – Bills of Sale: Tobacco

**Box 4:**

- Folder 1 – Bills of Sale, Miscellaneous, 1870s
- Folder 2 – Rent Receipts, Bills of Sale, Miscellaneous Vendors, 1870's
- Folder 3 – Receipts, Bills of Sale, Miscellaneous Vendors – 1870s-1880s
- Folder 4 – Receipts, Miscellaneous Vendors – 1877
- Folder 5 – Receipts, Bills of Sale, Miscellaneous Vendors – 1870s-1880s
- Folder 6 – Receipts, Bills of Sale, Miscellaneous Vendors – 1870s-1880s
- Folder 7 – Bills of Sale, Miscellaneous Vendors – 1884-1885
- Folder 7 – Receipts, Paist & Marmon (W. H. Marmon) Wholesale Druggists
- Folder 8 – Liquor purchase applications
- Folder 9 – Booklet, A History of Sulphur and Sulphume. Sulphume Company. 2 copies.
- Folder 10 – Pamphlets: Phenacetine-Bayer; Dr. Muller's Anti-Chill Pills
- Folder 11 – Pamphlet: directions for hog cholera medicine
- Folder 12 – Banking checks, account book
- Folder 13 – Pamphlet: United States and Canada Bank Notes
- Folder 14 – Edison Lamp Company Catalogue
- Folder 15 – Hood's Cook Book, October 1877. Recipes plus drug ads. Back Cover advertises Wm. W. Marmon, Apothecary in Bloomington.