

McLean County Museum of History

**Turners in Bloomington Collection
(Bill Adams)**

Processed by
Carol Straka
Summer 2017

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1896-1998
RESTRICTIONS:	Contains fragile items; consult with archivist about handling.
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
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	See also Photos – Turnverein - Adams Collection Provenance: Donated by Bill Adams in 1998. Some items in German language.

Brief History

William “Bill” Adams (1927-2013) grew up in a family which participated in the Turner organization in Bloomington. In the early 1980s, Margaret Scholz Anderson recommended that Adams write a book on the local Turners. Adams interviewed both Anderson and his own mother about the topic, but only returned to the project in the mid-1990s. He finally published *The Turners in Bloomington: Bloomington, Illinois Turnverein, 1855-1948* in 1998.

Adams’ career included a variety of newspaper assignments, such as reporter and night editor at the *Pantagraph* and service at the Illinois State University News and Publications office.

The local Turner organization was established in 1855 for German-born residents, their spouses and children. It continued to be active through the 1940s.

Scope

The collection includes materials for Adams’ book such as oral history interviews, newspaper and internet articles, etc. A sizable portion of the collection consists of materials his mother Velda Rouff Adams collected during her years in various roles with the women’s auxiliary (Damen Sektion) to the Bloomington Turnverein. These materials include correspondence, constitutions, dues records, treasury records, etc.

Box and Folder Inventory

General Materials (folders 1-6)

Folder 1: General

- 1.1 Obituary of William Adams, *Pantagraph*, 27 April 2013, p. D4. (Added by staff in 2017)
- 1.2 *The Turners in Bloomington, Bloomington Turnverein, 1855-1948*. (copy of book)
- 1.3 Draft, 25 pages, June 20 revision.
- 1.4 List of donations of McLean County Historical Society.

Folder 2: Book Photos

- 2.1 Photocopies of nine photos used in the book.

Folder 3: Miscellaneous Research

- 3.1 Turner info from City Directories, 1869-1941. Compiled 1998. 5 pp.
- 3.2 Compilation of clippings from *How Time Flies* column of the *Pantagraph*. 3 pp.
- 3.3 Turner Hall, 1860s-70s. Discussion of picture donated by Jean Apelt Henthorn composed by Bill Adams, 11 Nov 1998. 2 copies.
- 3.4 City Directory info on employment of Christ. Brohm and son-in-law Gustav Aplet. Compiled by Bill Adams 25 Oct 1998. 2 copies.
- 3.5 “Turner Hall Coming Down,” *Pantagraph*, 16 Jul 1969.
- 3.6 Ticket to Admit One to Turnverein, August 13. No year.

- 3.7 Turnverein related items at the Mclean County Historical Society as of 1 Aug 1994. 2 pp.

Folder 4: Margaret Scholz Anderson

- 4.1 Oral history interview conducted by Bill Adams, 29 Jul 1983. 8 pp.
4.2 Obituary, *Pantagraph*, February 1992.

Folder 5: Velda Rouff Adams

- 4.1 Oral history interview conducted by Bill Adams, 13 Apr 1983. 5 pp.

Folder 6: National Turners Information

- 6.1 "History of the American Turners" by Henry Metzner, 1989. 67 pp.
6.2 "The German Turnverein" by Claire E. Nolte; James Chastain articles on Turner movement in US; and "70% Men's Singing Choir," from Augustana College website. 4 pp.
6.3 Photocopy of Bill Zuber's Restaurant Homestead, Amana Colonies, Iowa.

Velda Rouff Adams' Women's Auxiliary Materials (folders 7-17)

Folder 7: American Turnerbund Ladies Auxiliary

- 7.1 Constitution and By-Laws, Ladies Auxiliary of the American Gymnastic Union, undated. Small booklet, 6 pp.
7.2 Constitution and By-Laws of the Women's Auxiliary of American Turnerbund, undated. 4pp.
7.3 Roster of Ladies Auxiliary – American Turnerbund, undated. Prepared by Linda E. Schulte, Newport, Ky. 4pp.
7.4 Document in German language related to Frauen-Verbands des Amerikanischen Turnerbunds. Perhaps meeting minutes? 30 Jun 1921. 5 pp.
7.5 Photocopy of partial program for convention at St. Louis, 23-26 Jun 1923. (*Original was moldy.*)
7.6 Official Proceedings of the 5th Biennial Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Turnerbund, 28-30 Jun 1929. 28 pp.
7.7 Official Proceedings of the 6th Biennial Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Turnerbund, 26-30 Jun 1931. 22 pp.
7.8 Official Proceedings of the 9th Biennial Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Turnerbund, 8-10 July 1937. 16 pp.

Folder 8: Communications from American Ladies Auxiliary to Local, 1920-25

- 8.1 About 20 letters from national officers to local auxiliary concerning conventions, dues, scholarship funds, etc. Includes both form letters to all auxiliaries as well as ones addressed to the Bloomington auxiliary. In chronological order.

Folder 9: Communications from American Ladies Auxiliary to Local, 1926-29

- 9.1 About 25 letters from national officers to local auxiliary concerning conventions, dues, scholarship funds, etc. Includes both form letters to all auxiliaries as well as ones addressed to the Bloomington auxiliary. In chronological order.

Folder 10: Communications from American Ladies Auxiliary to Local, 1930-35

- 10.1 About 20 letters from national officers to local auxiliary concerning conventions, dues, scholarship funds, etc. Includes both form letters to all auxiliaries as well as ones addressed to the Bloomington auxiliary. In chronological order.

Folder 11: Newsletters & Correspondence from Other Turner Units

- 11.1 *Turner Topics*, national Turner newsletter, Vol. I No. 1, August 1936 8 pp. Plus subscription form and solicitation for subscription.
- 11.2 *Turnverein Topics*, Los Angeles, Vol. 13, No. 6, June-July 1937. 6 pp. Plus envelope.
- 11.3 Form letter from Wisconsin Turn District inviting ladies of other units to attend a 75th anniversary celebration of Wisconsin Turn Vereins, 3 Sept 1939.
- 11.4 Letter in German language from Freidenkerheim of Harrisville, MI, 15 Jan 1921.
- 11.5 Turner Prize Essays, Turnfest of 1930, 87 pp.

Folder 12: Local Auxiliary Constitution, Minutes, Etc.

- 12.1 Constitution for Women's Section of Bloomington Turn Verein, 1896. 8 pp. In German.
- 12.2 Notice of resolution on death benefits to be put to members for a vote, May 1941.
- 12.3 Minutes, 6 May 1926.

Folder 13: Local Auxiliary Membership

- 13.1 Ten items of correspondence such as applications for membership, 1926-33.
- 13.2 Two letters to members who are delinquent on dues, 1932.
- 13.3 Ten membership cards, 1932, 1941-42.

Folder 14: Local Auxiliary Treasurer's Documents

- 14.1 Treasurer's reports. Many with year missing.
- 14.2 Miscellaneous invoices and receipts. Includes one from John Gummermann's Bloomington Journal, perhaps 1921.

Folder 15: Local Auxiliary Correspondence

- 15.1 Letters from members, mostly acknowledging club tributes of deaths or hospitalizations. Some in German.
- 15.2 Letter from Henry Behr of Bloomington thanking club for \$100 donation to the German Child Relief Committee, 4 Mar 1922.

Folder 16: Central Illinois Turn District Athletic Competition, 1898

- 16.1 Official Protocol of 27th "Tabfassung" of the Central Illinois Turn District at Bloomington, April 1898. 22pp. (Athletic competition for various ages and both sexes.) In German.

Folder 17: Local Auxiliary Officers Notebooks

- 17.1 Seven small notebooks showing dues paid by member name, 1920, 1921-22, 1924, 1925, 1927-29, 1931-34, 1939-40.
- 17.2 Three small notebooks showing dues paid by date, 1927-34, 1939-40, 1941-43.
- 17.3 Two larger notebooks with (presumably) treasurer's records, 1922-26, 1927-31.