

Collection #  
M 0729  
OM 0386

## GEORGE F. BLOOM FAMILY PAPERS CA. 1830–1981 (BULK 1840–1890)

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Processed by

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### COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	5 manuscript boxes, 2 oversize folders
COLLECTION DATES:	Inclusive, ca. 1830–1981 (bulk, 1840–1890)
PROVENANCE:	Gail J. Loveman, 2912 Commonwealth Ave., Chicago, IL

60657, 11 June 1998

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1998.0627

NOTES: This collection contains a letter of Henry S. Bloom to George F. Bloom (Greenwood, California, 24 January 1851), a photocopy of which formerly constituted the whole of SC 0102, Henry S. Bloom letter. With the discovery of the original in this collection, the SC 0102 number was vacated, and SC 0102 no longer exists as a separate collection.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

George Franklin Bloom (b. 1828) was born in Burlington, Pennsylvania. The 1883 history of Jasper County lists his parents as David (1800–1876?) and Mary (d. 1854) Bloom. However, the 1893 history of Kankakee County, Illinois, states that David married Polly Rutty (b. 1799) in 1819, and does not mention Mary Bloom. These histories and material within the collection indicate that George had at least six siblings: Henry Sterling, Sarah, Eliza, Harriet, Almira (d. 1870), and John Milton. Eliza married John Mann in 1851. Sarah married William R. Love; after her death, Love married Almira in 1857.

David Bloom and his family moved from Pennsylvania to Will County, Illinois, in 1834, and later to Kankakee County. While the family remained in Illinois, David lived in California for almost six years (ca. 1850–1856) prospecting for gold.

George was raised on the family farm. At age 21, he began work as a civil engineer and afterwards as a store clerk. He appears to have lived briefly in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1856. He moved from Manteno, Illinois, to Remington, Indiana (Jasper Co.) in the 1860s and worked as a store clerk for Charles and Giles Hathaway. He began his own business in 1871 after purchasing the stock of Cornelius Donnelly, who operated the first furniture store in Remington. He sold the business to John F. and George Major in 1891, and went into the grocery trade.

George married Caroline E. Jones, daughter of Samuel Jones of Raynham, Massachusetts, in 1870. They had two children, Ellery E. and Clara M. Bloom. George served on the Board of Town Trustees for Remington and as a school trustee.

Henry Sterling Bloom married Elizabeth A. Kearns of Montgomery County, New York. They had 14 children: Guy, Edith, Hilda, May, Inez, Ivan, David, Linda, Victor, Osburga, Thomas D., Maggie, Belle, and Harry Lee. Henry joined his father in California in the early 1850s. He was a farmer until 1876, when he moved to Kankakee, Illinois. He was one of the town's organizers and held many local offices. He also served as postmaster of Rockville, Illinois.

No information for members of the Currier/Keever branch of the family was located in available resources. However,

material in the collection's accession records indicate that Winifred (Currier) Keever, collector of the papers and wife of Frank Keever, was a resident of Indianapolis.

Sources: Material in the collection.

*Counties of Warren, Benton, Jasper and Newton, Indiana. Historical and Biographical.* (1883), p. 542.

*Portrait and Biographical Records of Kankakee County, Illinois* (1893), p. 567–568, 605.

Royalty, James H., et al. *History of the Town of Remington and Vicinity.* (1894), p. 46, 48, 214, 216, 239–240.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of material relating to the Bloom, Jones, Currier, and Keever family collected by Winifred Keever of Indianapolis. It includes correspondence, diaries, real estate deeds, receipts, genealogical records, military records, and financial records. The collection is arranged by family branch and then by type of material.

The majority of the Bloom family material is comprised of correspondence received by George F. Bloom. The early letters (1850–1857) are mainly from his father, David, and his brother, Henry, while they were prospecting for gold in California. Henry's letters detail his travel from Illinois to California and are generally positive in tone. Later letters from David and Henry are more negative and show their disillusionment with living in California and with their search for gold. Henry's letter of 24 January 1854 includes a map of Greenwood, El Dorado County, California.

Later correspondence includes family and business letters. Letters from Charles Shoemaker include maps of what appears to be the Green Bay, Wisconsin, area (15 April 1851) and of Warren County, Illinois (5 January 1853).

Principle correspondents include: David Bloom, Henry S. Bloom, John M. Bloom, Sarah Bloom, Isaac Bosworth, Charles Hathaway, Martin Kerns, William R. Love, and J. F. Merrick.

The family correspondence includes letters received by various family members, and includes a series of letters written by Ellery Bloom to his parents and sister. Other Bloom family papers include diaries kept by George (the diaries date from 1851 to 1864 with some years missing; an 1892 diary, possibly kept by George, is also present); receipts; legal records; legal records signed by George as Justice of the Peace in Rockville, Illinois; newspaper clippings concerning the death of Henry S. Bloom; and a manuscript written by Ellery Bloom.

Included with the Bloom family papers are documents and correspondence concerning individuals or businesses that had dealings with George F. Bloom; these include the Hathaway family, Cornelius Donnelly, and Merrick and Morrison & Co. Also present is correspondence from the Woman's Missionary Society of Logansport (Ind.) Presbytery to Flora Henricks of Remington, Indiana, and miscellaneous correspondence and documents related to Remington.

The Jones family material (ca. 1830–1948) includes genealogical information for members of the Jones-Bloom branch; stock records; records concerning the estate of Samuel Gushee Jones; a lithograph of Samuel Jones; a list of soldiers from Raynham, Massachusetts, who participated in the Civil War; and a map detailing road improvements near Raynham.

The Currier-Keever portion of the collections includes diaries kept by David R. Currier (1864) and Edward Currier (1892); military discharge papers from the Michigan Calvary, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, Company G, for David R. Currier; stock certificates; and correspondence. A group of envelopes without letters completes the collection.

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## CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://157.91.92.2/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0729).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.