

Barton House Archaeology & Family History Collection

Processed by Torii Moré
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1870-1996
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
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	Archived photographs under subject folder titled "Barton House Archaeology" and people box titled "Bloomington-Normal Black History Project Barton" See also Bloomington-Normal Black History Project collection Box 5 Folder 6, and Box 3 Folder 8

Historical Sketch

Milton Barton worked for Jesse Fell (founder and developer of Normal) and reportedly planted many of the trees at ISU. In the 1840s, Jesse Fell operated a nursery business near Quincy. When he returned to Bloomington-Normal he brought trees because he thought it would make Normal more beautiful, valuable, and more protected from the elements. Fell hired Milton and other African-American workers and brought them to Normal to help with the planting and maintenance of the trees. Barton was part Cherokee Indian, and his wife Lucinda was an African-American / Irish woman originally from Madison County. Fell could not remember his Cherokee name, so he named him Milton Barton. They lived at School and Water streets in Normal, in the spot that is now a parking lot for Stevenson Hall at ISU.

Milton's son, William Carey Barton, was a sheet-metal worker and coppersmith and bought a house at 304 E. Cherry St. in Normal. William's son, Wilbur Barton, was the youngest

of nine children and the only one to attend college. Among the first black students to attend ISNU, he graduated in 1936 with a teaching degree. Wilbur was captain of the basketball team, but for certain away games could not be seen with them team because he was black. In World War II he served with the Navy three years as chief petty officer at Great Lakes and Navy Pier in Chicago. With his college degree, Wilbur would have been a commissioned officer if he hadn't been "the wrong color." Wilbur could not use his teaching degree in Bloomington-Normal because there were no teaching opportunities for African-Americans. Instead, he moved to Indiana and taught in segregated schools. He taught junior high and high school in Indianapolis for 41 years before retiring.

In 1994 Ed Jelks, former Illinois State University professor, led a team of seven volunteers in an archaeological survey and excavation of Wilbur Barton's backyard. Along with census and oral histories, material found at the site has been used to reconstruct and record what ordinary people were doing at the time. Documents relating to this excavation are in this collection.

Scope Note

This folder contains legal documents, census photocopies, news clippings, correspondence, essays, as well as archaeological notes, reports, and tests. Folders 1-10 are related to Barton family history and genealogy. Folders 10-20 contain documents related to the archaeological excavation of the Barton property, and folders 20-23 are publications about the Barton house, maps of African-American residences, and miscellaneous house documents. There is also one floppy disk and one mini cassette.

Additional Barton house and family documents can be found in the Bloomington-Normal Black History Project collection in Box 5 Folder 6, Box 3 Folder 8, and other single documents in other folders throughout the collection.

Box and Folder Inventory

Loose Items:

Mini cassette of Barton site notes

Folder 1: Family History & Genealogy Books

- 1.1 Milton Barton Family Reunion book (2copies)
- 1.2 The Barton Family History soft cover, 40 pages
- 1.3 The Barton Family tree packet (2 copies)
- 1.4 The William Carey Barton Family: A study in historical archaeology by Edward B. Jelks. Soft cover, 54 pages.
- 1.5 Floppy disk

Folder 2: News Clippings & Obituaries

- 2.1 "Discrimination uprooted Wilbur Barton" in the Bloomington Pantagraph September 29, 1987. (2 copies)
- 2.2 "Report unearths Bartons' history" in the Pantagraph, date unknown (2 copies)
- 2.3 "Jesse Fell helped a black settler to a better life" in the Pantagraph September 29, 1987 (2 copies)
- 2.4 "Amateur archaeologists unearthing Normal's black history" in the Pantagraph June 25, 1994
- 2.5 "Family history bound to ISU" 1984
- 2.6 Obituary of Wilbur W. Barton

- 2.7 Obituary for Milton Barton, Daily Pantagraph June 19, 1885
- 2.8 Obituary for William C. Barton
- 2.9 Record of Certificate of Dead the William Z. Barton of Pontiac
- 2.10 Coroner's Certificate of Death for Derral Barton
- 2.11 Photograph of grave site and Certificates of Death for Ella E. Barton and Lon Barton
- 2.12 News clipping announcing marriage of Viola Barton and Willie E. Brown
- 2.13 News clipping announcing marriage of Emanuel Owsley and Azila Barton of Pontiac
- 2.14 News clipping about theater production

Folder 3: Legal Documents

Except for item 3.1, all documents are photocopies.

- 3.1 February 1, 1894 Building and Loan Association share holder document (3 copies)
- 3.2 February 10, 1898. Mortgage for lot 6 John & Lillie Heller (2 copies)
- 3.3 February 10, 1898 photocopy of promissory note to pay \$600 signed by John and Lillie Heller (3 copies)
- 3.4 February 1898 Henry Zimmerman documentation that he is acquainted with Malinda Storey (3 copies)
- 3.5 February 14, 1898. M. E. Storey receipt for "First Add to Normal" \$12.06(2 copies)
- 3.6 August 12, 1898.Quit-Claim Deed John and Lillie Heller to Malina Storey (4 copies)
- 3.7 November 1898. Warranty Deed Malinda E. Storey and Will H. Storey to John Heller. (3 copies)
- 3.8 June 5, 1899 receipt for \$11.33 (2 copies)
- 3.9 2 Demands for Special Assessment November 18, 1899 (3 copies) and January 16, 1902 to W. C. Barton
- 3.10 May 31. 1901 receipt for \$2.90 for W. Barton (3 copies)
- 3.11 January 23-24 1902 Real estate mortgage William C Barton to Mary Philbrook (3 copies)
- 3.12 June 12, 1905 receipt for \$3.61
- 3.13 June 18, 1906. Carey Barton deposit receipt \$36.57
- 3.14 Envelope addressed to Mrs. Samuel Miller from the War Department. Writing on the outside says "mama's cousins' burial number in Arlington Cemetery" Envelope postmarked May 2, 1908. Corresponding letter (1 original, 2 photocopies) gives the burial location for Stephen E. Barton.
- 3.15 February 8, 1911. Mortgage of Mary S. Philbrook.
- 3.16 July 8, 1977. Photocopy of deed for Wilbur W. Barton in Indianapolis, Marion County.
- 3.17 August 31, 1977. Letter to Wilbur Barton from Thomas M. Barger, Jr. regarding insurance policy
- 3.18 Map of Lot 6 on Cherry Street

Folder 4: Correspondence Lee Choate & Joy Craig

All correspondence is regarding Barton family genealogy, and is either to or from Lee Choate or Joy Craig unless otherwise noted.

- 4.1 May 1995-June 1995 (6 stapled pages regarding Barton family)
- 4.2 July- September 1995 (13 staples pages regarding Barton family including photocopies from McLean County Biographical Sketches)
- 4.3 October 1995
- 4.4 July 1995-March 1996 (6 pages stapled)
- 4.5 March 14 1996
- 4.6 search form from Fayette County Genealogical and Historical Society
- 4.7 March 16, 1996

- 4.8 March 18, 1996
- 4.9 March 22, 1996 (attached History of McLean County Biographical sketches)
- 4.10 March 28, 1996
- 4.11 April 7, 1996 (attached obituary)
- 4.12 April 19, 1996
- 4.13 April 19, 1996 to Mr. Choate from Marie Martin Murphy
- 4.14 April 24, 1996
- 4.15 April 24, 1996
- 4.16 April 29, 1996
- 4.17 May 13, 1996 (attached obituary for Eli Barton)
- 4.18 June 1, 1996
- 4.19 June 6, 1996
- 4.20 June 27, 1996

Folder 5: Cemetery Walk Information

- 5.1 Photocopy of hand-written account of family in Farmer City, Illinois.
- 5.2 Obituary for Lucinda Barton (4 copies)
- 5.3 Obituary for Mrs. Evalena M. Scott, J. P. Barton, Eugene Barton, and Hillard Barton
- 5.4 "Family history bound to ISU"
- 5.5 10 pages of census records

Folder 6: Genealogy Research

- 6.1 18 pages of census information, print-outs, and notes
- 6.2 article with notes on front and back
- 6.3 Notes re- Milton Barton
- 6.4 notes (4 pages)
- 6.5 census record
- 6.6 notes
- 6.7 photocopy of photograph of Milton Barton and Lucinda Barton (2 copies)
- 6.8 notes
- 6.9 Obituary for Lucinda Barton
- 6.10 Family chart
- 6.11 Barton house map
- 6.12 Large Barton family chart
- 6.13 births and deaths of various Barton family members

Folder 7: Study of the Barton Family by Michelle Senese

- 7.1 Food Production & Families: A Study of the Barton Family by Michelle Senese, 33 pages

Folder 8: John Hope School Fifth Annual Reunion book

- 8.1 John Hope School Fifth Annual Reunion at Marott Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana, 12 pages

Folder 9: Oral Interviews Milton & Wilbur Barton

- 9.1 Milton Barton interview transcription (2 copies)
- 9.2 notes from interview with Wilbur Barton
- 9.3 Wilbur Barton interview transcription, 22 pages (2 copies)
- 9.4 Transcription drafts, Wilbur Barton, 4 copies

Folder 10: Miscellaneous Family Documents

- 10.1 3 copies of handwritten "Trail of Tears" by Milton Barton's Grandson, Wilbur Barton
- 10.2 1 photocopy of a photograph of Carey W. Barton
- 10.3 1 photocopy of a photograph of Carey, Cynthia, Gladys and Hillard Barton
- 10.4 1 sheet explaining the 1850 Macoupin census
- 10.5 Abstract progression for Lot 6, Block 30, 1st addition to the town of Normal, Illinois.
- 10.6 4-page writing on the Barton Family
- 10.7 Bound soft cover book containing photocopied photographs, news articles, and family group sheets relating to the Barton Family. Approx. 36 pages
- 10.8 photographs of obituaries, marriage records, and news articles (12 photographs all together)

Folder 11: Letters to Dr. Jelks

- 11.1 December 20, 1995. To Dr. Jelks from Wilbur W. Barton
- 11.2 Letter from Adam Bennington to Dr. Jelks inquiring about archaeology masters and doctorate degrees

Folder 12: Inventory

- 12.1 Inventory of Barton site (18 pages)
- 12.2 Inventory of ceramic artifacts (4 pages)
- 12.3 hand-written Barton inventory sheets (13 pages)
- 12.4 ceramics inventory (4 pages)
- 12.5 Hand-written inventory of bottles & cups (8 pages)
- 12.6 print out of Haviland Limoges identification guide
- 12.7 Two pages about porcelain

Folder 13: Field Maps

- 13.1 Barton House Site 1988
- 13.2 Wilbur Barton House

Folder 14: Field Notes

- 14.1 13 pages, handwritten notes
- 14.2 18 pages, handwritten notes
- 14.3 Ed Jelks field journal June 14-July 8
- 14.5 Transcription of a taped interview between Wilbur Barton, Jack Muirhead, and Ed Jelks.

Folder 15: Feature Record & Survey Form

- 15.1 Feature Record for Barton 94
- 15.2 list of participants in Barton dig
- 15.3 Illinois Archaeological Survey form

Folder 16: Photographic Record

- 16.1 Wilbur Barton site photographic record 3 pages

Folder 17: Feature Forms

- 17.1-16 General Feature Forms features 4-7

Folder 18: Barton tests 4-11

- 18.1 Barton house site lot numbers
- 18.2 Barton test 4-Level (17 pages)
- 18.3 Barton test 5 (6 pages)
- 18.4 Barton test 7 (3 graphs)
- 18.5 Barton test 9

- 18.6 Barton test 10 (5 pages)
- 18.7 Barton test 11 (3 pages)

Folder 19: Barton Lot Charts 1-94

- 19.1 11 pages

Folder 20: The Barton House

- 20.1 The Barton House by Leah J. Bottger
- 20.2 History of the Barton House
- 20.3 Wilbur Barton House layout
- 20.4 8 pages of census and city directory photographs
- 20.5 The Barton House Site by Greg Koos and Leah Bottger

Folder 21: Audio-Video Tour Plan

- 21.1 Plan for an Audio-Video taped tour of the Barton House in Normal, Illinois

Folder 22: Maps of African-American Residences

- 22.1 hand-written list
- 22.2 map photocopy c. 1873
- 22.3 photocopy of map of clustering c. 1870
- 22.4 photocopy of map c. 1914 (2 copies)

Folder 23: Barton House Misc.

- 23.1 Photocopy of page 25 in Cemeteries and Tombstone Inscriptions of Madison County, Illinois
- 23.2 E-mail from Bob Mowery to Pam Muirhead February 8, 1996
- 23.3 census record
- 23.4 measurements worksheet
- 23.5 measurements of areas of Barton house 4 hand-written pages, 3 graphs
- 23.6 2 maps of the Barton house