

**McLean County Museum of History**

**Livingston Family Collection**

Processed by  
JoAnna Mink  
Summer 2023

**Collection Information**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 box
COLLECTION DATES:	1881-2023
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:	

## Brief History

In 1927, a writer in the *Pantagraph* opined, “Probably no other family in Bloomington has played such a prominent part in the mercantile history of the community as the Livingstons.” In the 1850s, teenage brothers Sam and Aaron Livingston emigrated from Hessen, Germany, to the U.S. They first arrived in Cincinnati, where their uncle Mayer was in business and where they learned English. In 1852, they relocated to Illinois, bought a horse and wagon, and traveled from farm-to-farm peddling. Aaron reached Bloomington in 1853 and rented a shack on the southwest corner of Main and Washington streets for a clothing store. A few months later, Sam opened a clothing store on the southwest corner of Main and Front streets. Thus began the retail empire of the Livingston family. (See Folder 14 for listings of businesses.) [(summarized from article in the *Pantagraph*, February 10, 1927)]

The empire expanded as other Livingstons arrived from Germany, as descendants entered the family businesses or established their own, and as they married into other Bloomington Jewish families. Items in Folder 1: Livingston Family History, provide some genealogical details; other information is readily available in collections and books in the Mclean County Museum of History. Particularly noteworthy in the Livingston Family Collection are materials in Folder 5: Livingston/Ochs Family History. The Sigmund Livingston materials (Folder 11) provide information about his founding of the Anti-Defamation League in 1913.

The Livingston family were members of the Moses Montefiore Temple, as well as other cultural societies and organizations in Bloomington. Today’s Bloomington would be radically different if Aaron and Sam Livingston had not established themselves here in 1853.

## Scope

The Livingston Family Collection contains materials, many photocopied, from various sources about many members of the family.

## Folder Inventory

### Folder 1: Livingston Family History

- 1.1 Listing of Livingstons buried in the Jewish Cemetery, Bloomington.
- 1.2 Email from Dan Barringer, March 29, 2012, with Livingston Family names, dates, and some familial relationships.
- 1.3 Typescript of Handwritten Note, Presumably Written by Sigmund Livingston, transcribed by Richard Livingston, September 17, 2002.
- 1.4 Livingston Family Genealogy, as extracted from Sigmund Livingston’s collection of obituaries, 2pp.
- 1.5 Hirsch Lowenstein family tree from Volker Hess Germany Tree of descendants. 2pp.
- 1.6 Emails with information from Richard Livingston, September 13, 2011, and February 13, 2011.
- 1.7 Email from Sybil Mervis with some family information, August 6, 2012.

- 1.8 Scan of Livingston Family Photo (c. 1918-1919) with identifications, and scan of Livingston Family Photo (1896-1899?) with identifications, sent by Richard Livingston, December 16, 2013.
- 1.9 Descendants of Aaron Livingston, Family Tree, August 31, 2003, with handwritten notes and corrections.
- 1.10 Email from Laurie Livingston with some current family information, October 23, 2017, 2pp.

**Folder 2: Aaron Livingston (1836-1881)**

- 2.1 Obituary and typescript of obituary, *Pantagraph*, September 26 and 27, 1881.
- 2.2 Photocopy of letter from John W. Trotter, Mayor, regarding legacy of Aaron Livingston to distribute \$300 to the city's poor on New Year's Day 1882.

**Folder 3: Aaron Livingston (1837-1903)**

- 3.1 Family tree of Mitchell Livingston details descendants of Aaron Livingston.
- 3.2 Copies of obituaries with handwritten notes, April 7, 1903
- 3.3 Obituaries, *Pantagraph*, April 4, 1903, 2pp.

**Folder 4: Aaron Edward Livingston (1912-1992)**

- 4.1 Listing of Livingstons buried in the Jewish Cemetery, Bloomington.
- 4.2 Email from Dan Barringer, March 29, 2012, with Livingston Family names, dates, and some familial relationships.
- 4.3 Obituary of Dr. A. Edward Livingston.
- 4.4 Obituary of Zelona W. Livingston.
- 4.5 Booklet *History of the Practice of Medicine in McLean County, Illinois 1930-1980* by A. Edward Livingston, M. D. 21pp.

**Folder 5: Livingston/Ochs Family History**

- 5.1 Manuscript "Livingston/Ochs' Family History" by John and Barbara Livingston Grimm, 2005, 36pp. Includes many scans of photos.

**Folder 6: Fannie Livingston Ochs (1882-1954)**

- 6.1 Fannie Livingston Ochs, <findagrave.com>, May 25, 2023.
- 6.2 Photocopy of "The Aaron Livingston Family" by Fannie Livingston Ochs, undated, 3pp. 2 copies.
- 6.3 Photocopy of letter to Aunt Fan from nephew Millard, February 4, 1919.
- 6.4 Photocopies of account written by Hannah Eliel Livingston, mother of Fannie Leah Livingston Ochs, describing burning of the ship Globus in 1860, original (6pp) and typescript (3pp),
- 6.5 Photocopy of telegram from The American Red Cross with message from Frontshen Plant, March 14, 1919.

**Folder 7: Livingston, Hannah Ochs (1908-1991) and Livingston, Herbert (1898-1987)**

- 7.1 Obituary for Herbert Livingston.
- 7.2 Obituary for Hannah Livingston.
- 7.3 Photocopy of page from autograph book and list of presents for Nineth Birthday (1917)

- for Hannah Livingston Ochs, 3pp.
- 7.4 Photocopy of letter to Mrs. H. L. Ochs from John Carlson on Paris Island, thanking her for a sweater, July 21, 1918, 2pp.
  - 7.5 Photocopy of letter to "little Hannah" from Aunt Rose, February 4, 1920, 2pp.
  - 7.6 Photocopy of letter to Dad from Hannah L. Ochs with personal news, May 13, 1922, 2pp.
  - 7.7 Photocopy of letter of thanks to Miss Hannah Ochs from European Relief Council, January 28, 1921.
  - 7.8 Certificate for Hannah Livingston from The American National Red Cross of completing Staff Assistance Corps course, December 1942.
  - 7.9 Blood donor certificate for Mrs. Hannah Livingston, July 26, 1943.
  - 7.10 Mileage Rationing Record for Herbert W. Livingston, October 30, 1944.
  - 7.11 Vaccination card for oral polio program for Hannah O. Livingston, 1962.

**Folder 8: Livingston, Mayer (1839-1915)**

- 8.1 Pedigree Chart for Mayer Lowenstein.
- 8.2 Obituary for Mayer Livingston, *Daily Pantagraph*, October 11, 1915, 2 copies.
- 8.3 Obituary for Dora Livingston
- 8.4 Obituary for Dora Livingston, *Daily Pantagraph*, January 17, 1927.
- 8.5 Photocopy of Will of Mayer Livingston, 6pp.
- 8.6 Photocopy of death certificate for Mayer Livingston, October 29, 1915.
- 8.7 Photocopy of waive of probate, October 28, 1915.
- 8.8 Email from Richard Livingston covering scans of only known photos of Mayer and Dora Livingston, December 16, 2015

**Folder 9: Livingston, Milton R. (1872-1937)**

- 9.1 Obituary of M. R. Livingston, includes details of family relationships and business, 2pp.
- 9.2 Obituary of Florence M. Griesheim Livingston
- 9.3 "Men Who Are Making Illinois," about Milton R. Livingston, rpt. from *Illinois Journal of Commerce*, February 1927.

**Folder 10: Livingston, Samuel (1834-1892)**

- 10.1 Obituary of Samuel Livingston, *Pantagraph*.
- 10.2 Obituary of Samuel Livingston, *Pantagraph*, October 10, 1892, 3pp, and typescript, 2pp.
- 10.3 Photography of Evergreen City Lodge, No. 265, Resolution of Condolence and Respect, October 24, 1892.

**Folder 11: Livingston, Sigmund (1872-1946)**

(Note: Newspapers clippings from *Pantagraph*, unless noted otherwise)

- 11.1 Photocopy of Marriage Certificate for Sigmund Livingston and Hilda Freiler, with email from Richard Livingston, December 16, 2015, 3pp.
- 11.2 List of Sigmund Livingston's addresses, 1881-1946.
- 11.3 Packet of materials from Dan Barringer, State Farm Insurance archivist: photocopies and typescripts of various newspapers articles, timeline, activities in connection with Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, 18pp.
- 11.4 "Mr. Sig. Livingston Goes to Berlin," *Pantagraph*, March 16, 1912, photocopy and typescript, 3pp.

- 11.5 Photocopies of correspondence of Adolf Kraus to member lodges of the Independent Order of B'nai B'rith regarding "the untruthful characterization of the Jew" on stage and film, February 17, 1914 and October 19, 1916 with resolutions, 4pp.
- 11.6 Photocopy "Sig. Livingston Bids Godspeed to Boys Called into U. S. Service," *Daily Bulletin*, September 4, 1917, 2pp.
- 11.7 "Anti-Semitism Here Called Hitler's Aim. Livingston Asks B'nai B'rith to Fight Poison With Truth," *New York Times*, April 1, 1941.
- 11.8 "Jews Answer Their Critics in New Book," *Chicago Tribune*, July 9, 1942.
- 11.9 "Race Hatred Viewed with Calm Reason" (review of *Must Men Hate?*), *Chicago Tribune*, June 25, 1944.
- 11.10 "Must We Hate?" (book review by Dr. Edgar DeWitt Jones), November 3, 1944.
- 11.11 "Lawyer Sigmund Livingston Dies In Highland Park," June 14, 1946
- 11.12 "Late Attorney's Estate Valued At \$647,656," June 10, 1947.
- 11.13 "Bloomington Man Led Early Fight Against Discrimination," October 31, 1963 (photocopy from microfilm and transcription).
- 11.14 Photocopy of Photograph and caption, November 6 Anti-Defamation League Day in Illinois (photo includes Richard Livingston, son of Sigmund), November 7, 1963.
- 11.15 Illinois Wesleyan University card file on Sigmund Livingston (photocopy).
- 11.16 Seventieth birthday dinner program, December 27, 1942, Chicago.
- 11.17 "Must Men Hate," *Illinois Wesleyan University Magazine* (Summer 1993), p. 26.
- 11.18 Email from Dan Barringer with final draft of plaque, 2003.
- 11.19 Paragraph about Sigmund Livingston appearing in the *Pantograph's* "Sesqui!: Remembering Our City's Past," undated.
- 11.20 "Tribute to Sigmund Livingston" by Richard S. Livingston, November 15, 2012, Anti-Defamation League 2012 Annual Meeting of the National Commission, 5 pp and cover email from Sybil (Stern) Mervis, November 21, 2012.
- 11.21 Emails from Richard Livingston and Laurie Livingston covering files sent, December 15 & 16, 2015.
- 11.22 "Bloomington lawyer led anti-Semitism fight," July 11, 2010.
- 11.23 Excerpt from *A Promise To Keep: A Narrative of the American Encounter with Anti-Semitism* by Nathan C. Belth (New York: Schocken Books, 1979), pp. 38-41.

## **Folder 12: Other Individuals**

Note: Individuals are listed alphabetically

- 12.1 Aaron Livingston (1870-1916) obituary.
- 12.2 Allie Livingston (1871-1943), widow of Aaron Livingston, above, obituary.
- 12.3 Abraham L. Livingston (1865-1928) obituary, 2pp.
- 12.4 Alfred Livingston ( - 1949), Illinois Wesleyan University Alumni Association Record card.
- 12.5 Harry Livingston (1873-1930) obituary.
- 12.6 Herman Livingston (1875-1951) city directory workup.
- 12.7 Hirsch Livingston (1808-1886) obituary clipping and typescript, chart of children.
- 12.8 Ike Livingston (1845-1916) obituaries, Probate will information, 3pp.
- 12.9 Irvin I. Livingston ( - 1949), Illinois Wesleyan University Alumni Association Record card.
- 12.10 Samuel A. Livingston (1898-1931) article about death.

- 12.11 Sam E. Livingston (1875-1943) obituary, 2pp.
- 12.12 Yetta Behrman Livingston (1835-1904) obituary, 2pp.
- 12.13 Isaac Strauss (1839-1899), husband of Fannie Livingston, obituary.

**Folder 13: Family Miscellaneous**

- 13.1 Notes from articles on B'nai B'rith Lodge, Isaac Strauss's obituary, wedding announcements and events, 3pp.
- 13.2 "Historic Residence to Be Razed," July 17, 1958, about 204 E. Jefferson Street, where A. Livingston Sr's family lived 1880-1907. Site is to be a parking lot.
- 13.3 Email from Jeff Woodard accompanying scans of photos of Aaron Livingston's home at 210 E. Jefferson Street, October 25, 2016, 4pp.

**Folder 14: Businesses**

- 14.1 Outline of Livingston Family from 1855-1907, lists businesses and addresses, details of family relationships, 4pp.
- 14.2 City Directory Search for Livingstons in Retail 18568-1960, by Museum Library volunteer Milan Jackson, November 2011, detailed information, 7pp.
- 14.3 "New Livingston Building and Its Proprietor," August 4, 1902, about building corner of Main and Washington streets, designed by George Miller, and Isaac Livingston.
- 14.4 Advertisement for opening of Ike Livingston & Sons, October 25, 1902.
- 14.5 Notes on time capsule, from 1848, discovered at demolition of building prior to the building of the Livingston building, Main and Washington
- 14.6 "Livingston Family Among Pioneers in Mercantile World," August 26, 1930.