COMMUNITY HISTORY COLLECTION

Subject File Finding Aids

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Aurora Businesses

Finding Aid
Community History Collection
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SUMMARY

Date range:	1859-2019
Bulk dates:	1859-1929; 2005-2019
Extent:	57 folders
Creator:	N/A
Language(s):	English
Processed by:	Cailín Cullen; Robb Winder

ABSTRACT

This collection includes newspaper clippings related to businesses in Aurora, such as banks, retail stores, hotels, restaurants, and bars from 1859 to 2019.

ACCESS & USE

Acquisition information:	Accruals are expected.
Access restrictions:	Collection is open and available for use.
Copyright:	Copyright restrictions apply.
Preferred citation:	[Item Description], [Folder Title], Aurora Businesses Series, Aurora Public Library District Community History Collection, Aurora, IL

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION / ORGANIZATION HISTORY

Businesses in Aurora were plentiful in the mid to late nineteenth century, including long-standing businesses like Builders Supply (1854-2008), Erlenborn's (1882-1993), Sencenbaugh's (1867-1968), and Wurst Kitchen (1895-present). The year of the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 marked a turning point as Aurora businesses grew to serve an expanding population. The modern stores erected in the early to mid-twentieth century stood in contrast to the small shops and general stores that were so prominent a few decades before.

To accommodate this growth and to promote Aurora's position as a major commerce center, several large hotels were established in the early twentieth century. Hotel Aurora was the first skyscraper on Stolp Island when it opened in 1917. Just eleven years later, the Leland Hotel was built at twenty-two stories high, making it the tallest building in Illinois outside of Chicago.

Aurora Businesses

The mid- to late twentieth century saw the development of several shopping centers outside of the downtown area, including Northgate (c. 1950s), Fox Valley Mall (1975), and Chicago Premium Outlets (2004).

A plan was developed in 2017 to revitalize the Aurora downtown area with an eye toward diversifying businesses, promoting a robust arts scene, and enhancing the connection with the Fox River. Several new restaurants and cafes opened around this time, including Altiro Latin Fusion, Charlie's Silver Spoon Creamery, Endiro Coffee, Society 57, Stolp Island Social, and Tredwell Coffee.

SCOPE & CONTENT

This collection includes newspaper clippings related to businesses in Aurora, such as banks, retail stores, hotels, restaurants, and bars from 1859 to 2019. Notable businesses include Hotel Aurora, Leland Hotel, Old Second National Bank, and Sencenbaugh's department store. "Business—General Information" includes several articles from the late nineteenth century regarding stores that had recently opened in the newly established city. Folders are organized alphabetically by name.

SUBJECT TERMS

- Advertising
- Bars (Drinking establishments)
- Business
- Hotels
- Restaurants
- Small business

RELATED MATERIALS

Researchers interested in this archive may also wish to consult the following resources in the APLD holdings:

- *Local Industries*
- *People from Aurora*--Sencenbaugh Family

CONTENT LISTING

Folder Title

Advertisements
Arenkill's

Aurora Businesses

Assell Photo Shop
Aurora Greenhouse
Aurora Laundry
Banking
Banking—Aurora National Bank
Banking—Merchants Bank
Banking—Old Second National Bank
Ben Franklin Crafts
Black Door Pub
Block and Kuhl
Bookstores
Boys Motor Car Service
Budlong Greenhouse
Builders Supply
Business—General Information
Charlie's Silver Spoon
Chicago Premium Outlet Mall
Chicago Telephone Company
Clark's Stamps
Clothiers
Denney and Denney
Endiro Coffee
Erlenborn's
Farnsworth Market Square
Fitchome Farms
Frelk Farms
Grimm's Drugstore
Harner's Bakery
Hayden's Sports
Highway Lanes
Hopvine Brewing Company
Hotels and Restaurants—Historical
JoAnne's School of Charm
Le Beau's
Lietz and Grometer
Long Island Sound/Belle Salle
Luigi's
McDonalds
Michael D's
Neumann and Staudt
Oatman Brothers
Plumbers
Pocus Motors
Prisco's

Aurora Businesses

Restaurants/Eateries
Reuland's
Rivers Edge Café
Sadler's
Schaefer's Greenhouse
Sencenbaugh's
Shopping Centers
Swalley's Music House
Valley Linen Supply
Wardell Art Glass Studio
Watson Music House
Weingart and Pillatsch

Aurora Township and Surrounding Area

Finding Aid

Community History Collection

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SUMMARY

Date range:	1855-2019
Bulk dates:	1875-1895; 2010-2019
Extent:	60 folders
Creator:	N/A
Language(s):	English
Processed by:	Cailín Cullen; Robb Winder

ABSTRACT

This collection includes newspaper clippings and maps related to Aurora Township as well as DuPage, Kane, and Kendall Counties from 1855 to 2019.

ACCESS & USE

Acquisition information:	Accruals are expected.
Access restrictions:	Collection is open and available for use.
Copyright:	Copyright restrictions apply.
Preferred citation:	[Item Description], [Folder Title], Aurora Township and Surrounding Area Series, Aurora Public Library District Community History Collection, Aurora, IL

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION / ORGANIZATION HISTORY

Representatives of the Council of Three Fires (Chippewa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi tribes) and the United States signed the Treaty of Prairie du Chien on July 29, 1829. The Native American tribes ceded a large swath of land in present-day northern Illinois and southwestern Wisconsin to the United States, including the land on which Aurora and surrounding towns would soon be established. The treaty also outlined reservation areas in western Illinois for the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation. Later, the U.S. government removed them further west to Kansas.

Some of the first Anglo-American settlers in Kane County were Christopher Payne (Batavia) and Daniel S. Haight (Geneva) who arrived in 1832 and 1833. Both men reportedly left temporarily due to the Black Hawk War, in which the Sauk leader gathered Sauk, Meskwakis (Fox), and Kickapoo tribes in an effort to reclaim lands sold to the United States government. The army wagons sent from Chicago to quell the uprising paved a path that

was soon followed by permanent settlers to the region.

Kane and Will Counties were established in January 1836, and named after Elias Kent Kane, the first Illinois Secretary of State, and Dr. Conrad Will, a businessman and member of the Illinois Legislature. DuPage County was formed three years later in 1839, while Kendall County was established in 1841.

The Illinois Constitution of 1848 gave voters in each county the opportunity to adopt a township form of government. Aurora Township was one of the first to begin operation when it was established in 1850. Fifteen other townships were created in Kane County at the time, including Geneva, Batavia, and St. Charles.

The population in the region saw steady growth throughout the twentieth century, and DuPage, Will and Kane Counties now rank second, fourth, and fifth respectively among the most populous counties in Illinois.

SCOPE & CONTENT

This collection includes newspaper clippings and maps related to Aurora Township as well as DuPage, Kane, and Kendall Counties from 1855 to 2019. It contains a significant collection of newspaper articles on music from the late nineteenth and mid-twentieth centuries (see “Music”). Several folders in the collection contain indexes to relevant newspaper articles (see especially “Kane County – Historical”). This collection does not contain information on Will County. Folders are organized alphabetically by name.

SUBJECT TERMS

- DuPage County (Ill.)--History
- DuPage County (Ill.)--Maps
- Kane County (Ill.)--History
- Kane County (Ill.)--Maps
- Kendall County (Ill.)--History
- Kendall County (Ill.)--Maps

RELATED MATERIALS

Researchers interested in this archive may also wish to consult the following resources in the APLD holdings:

- *City of Aurora*
- *Local History*
- DuPage County reference books
- Kane County reference books

Aurora Township and Surrounding Area

- Kendall County reference books
- Will County reference books

CONTENT LISTING

Folder Title

Aurora Township
Cemeteries
Cemeteries—Lincoln Memorial Park
Chicago World's Fairs
DuPage County
DuPage County—Big Woods
DuPage County—Eola
DuPage County—History
DuPage County—Naperville
DuPage County—Sports
DuPage County—Veggie Fest
Elgin Milk Condensing Factory/Borden's
Farnsworth House
Fox Valley Folk Festival
General
Kane County—Batavia
Kane County—Beer Brewing
Kane County—Big Rock
Kane County—Cemeteries
Kane County—Cemeteries II
Kane County—Clerk Records
Kane County—Courts/Judges
Kane County—Education
Kane County—Elburn (Blackberry Station)
Kane County—Elections
Kane County—Elgin
Kane County—Fair
Kane County—Folklore
Kane County—Geneva
Kane County—Historical Markers/Monuments
Kane County—History
Kane County—Illinois Prairie Path
Kane County—Kaneville
Kane County—Lincoln Highway
Kane County—Mooseheart
Kane County—North Aurora
Kane County—St. Charles

Aurora Township and Surrounding Area

Kane County—Schools
Kane County—Sports
Kane County—Sugar Grove
Kendall County—History
Kendall County—Montgomery
Kendall County—Oswego
Kendall County—Sandwich Fair
Kendall County—Yorkville
Maps—DuPage County
Maps--Fox River Bicycle Trail
Maps—Illinois Bicycle Trails
Maps—Kane County
Maps—Kane County—Bicycle Paths
Maps—Kane County—Historical
Maps—Kendall County
Maps—Oswego/Boulder Hill
Music
North Central College
Place Names
Riverbank Laboratories
Sandwich Fair
Weather
World's Columbian Exposition

City of Aurora

Finding Aid
Community History Collection
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SUMMARY

Date range:	1854-2021
Bulk dates:	1986-2016
Extent:	125 folders
Creator:	N/A
Language(s):	English
Processed by:	Cailín Cullen; Robb Winder

ABSTRACT

This collection includes newspaper clippings and maps related to the City of Aurora from 1854 to 2021. Subjects include cemeteries, city government, populations, neighborhoods, publications, and statistics.

ACCESS & USE

Acquisition information:	Accruals are expected.
Access restrictions:	Collection is open and available for use.
Copyright:	Copyright restrictions apply.
Preferred citation:	[Item Description], [Folder Title], City of Aurora Series, Aurora Public Library District Community History Collection, Aurora, IL

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION / ORGANIZATION HISTORY

Representatives of the Council of Three Fires (Chippewa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi tribes) and the United States signed the Treaty of Prairie du Chien on July 29, 1829. The Native American tribes ceded a large swath of land in present-day northern Illinois and southwestern Wisconsin to the United States, including the land on which Aurora and surrounding towns would soon be established.

Joseph McCarty arrived on the island that is now the site of downtown Aurora in April 1834. McCarty came west from New York looking for a river site to build a mill. His brother, Samuel, joined him soon after, and the settlement was named McCarty Mills for the brothers' gristmill and sawmill. At the time, the most prominent Native American in the region was the Potawatomi chief, Waubonsie. Aurora was platted in 1835, and the first school opened the following year. In 1837, when a post office was established, the village

was named Aurora. Joseph Stolp, the island's namesake, arrived in Aurora the same year on June 12. By the end of the decade, the settlement consisted of about 30 families.

In 1845, East Aurora was incorporated. In 1849, work began on the railroad that would bring so many jobs to Aurora over the next one hundred years. Mid-century saw continued growth as the railroad absorbed several less successful lines and began operating under the name of Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. The fire department was established in 1856 with Jesse Brady as foreman. In 1857, the east and west sides of Aurora united and were incorporated into one city. On March 4, 1857, the new city elected its first mayor, B. F. Hall. At that time, mayors were alternated, first from the west side and, the next year, one from the east side. By the end of the decade, the city had three hotels, nine churches, eleven schools, one seminary, and ground was broken for a city hall on Stolp Island.

In 1881, Aurora earned its nickname, "City of Lights," when it became the first to implement an all-electric street lighting system. In the same year, the city established a free library. During the Panic of 1893, the city administration provided numerous men with employment by extending the city sewer system at that time. On September 5-11, 1937, Aurora celebrated its centennial with multiple parades, events, and exhibits.

Aurora saw steady growth throughout much of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. As Native Americans left the area under government pressure, settlers of Northern European descent – namely, Irish, Germans, and Luxembourgers – arrived on what is now the site of downtown Aurora. The African American population grew following the Civil War as newly-free slaves migrated from the South. Eastern European and Mexican immigrants began arriving in the early twentieth century. The Latinx population grew rapidly toward the end of the twentieth century, and South Asian immigrants began to settle on the far east side of Aurora in the early twenty-first century. The city's population has doubled between 1990 and 2010.

SCOPE & CONTENT

This collection includes newspaper clippings and maps related to the City of Aurora from 1854 to 2021. Subjects include cemeteries, city government, populations, neighborhoods, publications, and statistics. There is a significant collection on bridges in Aurora, including an index to newspaper articles, postcards, and printed microfilm articles on the opening of the Memorial Bridge on New York Street in 1931.There is also a large collection of newspaper clippings on the Aurora Fire Department, including information about the Great Chicago Fire, as well as the Aurora Police Department, including "Police Beat" booklets from the 1990s. The map collection spans from the 1800's to the 2000's and includes political, school district, and topological maps. Most of the Neighborhood files contain a clipping from the Beacon-News' series of community profiles in 1999 and 2000. The most notable publication in the collection is the Beacon-News ("Publications—The Aurora Beacon News"), which contains the Highlights of History edition (c. 1968) and the Sesquicentennial Edition (1996).

City of Aurora

SUBJECT TERMS

- Aurora (Ill.)
- Aurora (Ill.)--History
- Aurora (Ill.)--Maps
- Aurora (Ill.)--Newspapers

RELATED MATERIALS

Researchers interested in this archive may also wish to consult the following resources in the APLD holdings:

Community History Reference Collection

- Aurora, Illinois, illustrated: a brief sketch of a beautiful and progressive city REF.GLH 977.323 AUR
- Aurora in the beginning 977.323 AUR
- City of Aurora, Illinois annual budget (2005-) REF. 352.4977323 AUR
- City of Aurora, Illinois capital improvement plan (1993-) REF. 352.4977323 AUR
- Luxemburger immigrants to Aurora REF. 977.323 LIES (pp. 32-43)

Subject Files

- Aurora Township and Surrounding Area series
- Local History series
- People from Aurora--Copley, Ira C.
- People from Aurora--Hall, Benjamin Franklin

CONTENT LISTING

Folder Title

Address Conversion 1928/1929
Aurora Economic Development Commission
Bicycle Paths
Bridges
Bridges—Memorial Bridge
Bus Transportation
Cemeteries
Cemeteries—Calvary
Cemeteries—Mount Olivet
Cemeteries—Root Street
Cemeteries—Spring Lake
Cemeteries—St. Nicholas

City of Aurora

Cemeteries—West Aurora
City Alderman
City Departments—Aurora Fire Department
City Departments—Aurora Fire Department—Chicago Fire
City Departments—Aurora Police Department
City Departments—Health Department
City Departments—Sanitary District
City Departments—Water
City Development—Pre-1980
City Development—1980's
City Development—1990's
City Development—2000's
City Development—2010's
City Development—Downtown Aurora
City Development—Foxwalk
City Development—Shodeen
City Development—Zoning
City Flag
City Hall
City Name
City Parking
City Planning—Pre-1970's
City Planning—1970's
City Services—City Incinerator
City Services—Civil Defense
City Services—Recycling
City Services—Trash Disposal
Community Centers
Dams
Environment—Fox River
Environment—Fox River Valley
Environment—Weather
Environment—Wildlife
Ethnic Groups—African American
Ethnic Groups—Chinese
Ethnic Groups—General
Ethnic Groups—Latinx
Ethnic Groups—Luxembourgers
Farmers Market
General Information
Government
Government—City Charter
Government—City Council Pensions
Government—City Finance

City of Aurora

Government—City Officers
Government—Elections
Government—Post Office
Government—Sales Tax
Government—WIGS
Maps—1800's
Maps—1920's
Maps—1930's
Maps—1940's
Maps—1950's
Maps—1960's
Maps—1970's
Maps—1980's
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Maps—2000's
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Maps—Historic Districts
Maps—Political
Maps—Precincts
Maps—Sanborn Maps
Maps—School Districts
Maps—Topological
Mayors
Neighborhoods
Neighborhoods—Bishops Park
Neighborhoods—Cameo Park
Neighborhoods—Cherry Hill Estates
Neighborhoods—Dutchtown
Neighborhoods—Evanslawn
Neighborhoods—Far West Side
Neighborhoods—Fox Valley Villages
Neighborhoods—Frogtown
Neighborhoods—Hercules Park
Neighborhoods—Lakeside of San Souci
Neighborhoods—Meadow Elms
Neighborhoods—Moecherville
Neighborhoods—Mount Pleasant
Neighborhoods—Near Eastside
Neighborhoods—Near West Side
Neighborhoods—New York Street
Neighborhoods—Ogden Gardens
Neighborhoods—Orchard Valley

City of Aurora

Neighborhoods—Palace Street Historic District
Neighborhoods—Pattersonville
Neighborhoods—Pidgeon Hill
Neighborhoods—Prestbury
Neighborhoods—R.C.A. Associates
Neighborhoods—Riddle Highlands
Neighborhoods—Stonebridge
Neighborhoods—Sunnymere
Neighborhoods—Tanner District
Neighborhoods—Westside Historic District
Neighborhoods—White Eagle
Population
Publications—The Aurora Beacon News
Publications—Aurora Life
Publications—Downtown Auroran
Publications—Fox Valley Living
Publications—Newspapers
Rail Transportation
Statistics—1960 Census
Statistics—1970 Census
Statistics—1972-1975 City Census
Statistics—1990 Census
Statistics—1996 Special Census
Statistics—Aurora Population, 1950-1980
Statistics—Crime
Street Numbering
Streetlights
Streets

Hospitals and Healthcare

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Community History Collection
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SUMMARY

Date range:	1878-2023
Bulk dates:	N/A
Extent:	21 Folders
Creator:	N/A
Language(s):	English
Processed by:	Ethan Mikolay; Cailín Cullen; Robb Winder

ABSTRACT

This collection contains newspaper clippings and informational pamphlets regarding healthcare facilities in Aurora, Illinois from 1878 to 2023.

ACCESS & USE

Acquisition information:	Accruals are expected.
Access restrictions:	Collection is open and available for use.
Copyright:	Copyright restrictions apply.
Preferred citation:	[Item Description], [Folder Title], Hospitals and Healthcare Series, Aurora Public Library District Community History Collection, Aurora, IL

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION / ORGANIZATION HISTORY

The major 21st-century medical institutions in Aurora, including Rush Copley Medical Center, Ascension Mercy Hospital, Advocate Medical Group, and VNA Health Care, have roots in the community that date back as far as the 19th century. Aurora's first hospital, the Aurora Medical and Surgical Institute and Cancer Hospital, was built in 1872 by Dr. Frederick Pond. It closed soon after in 1898.

Aurora City Hospital was founded by the Women's Christian Association in 1886 in a rented house on South Fourth Street, just south of Clark Street.[1] The building on South Lincoln and Weston Avenues was built in 1888.[2] It was selected as a U.S. Hospital during World War I and the headquarters of Medical Advisory Boad No. 4.[3] In 1927, publisher and

[1] Copley_AuroraCityHospital,est1886 - Newspapers.com™
[2] Derry, Vernon. *The Aurora Story*. 1976, p. 94.
[3] Greenaway, J. W. *With the Colors from Aurora, Illinois, U.S.A., 1917, 1918, 1919*. 1920, p. 272.

politician Ira C. Copley donated over one million dollars for renovations, and the hospital was then known as Copley Hospital.[4] After Rush Copley Medical Center was built in 1995, the original building stood vacant for 27 years until being converted into an apartment building for adults with intellectual disabilities in 2022.

St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital – the predecessor to Ascension Mercy Hospital – originally opened its doors in 1911 under the care of the Sisters of Mercy, an international network of Catholic women that provide services around the world. In 1994, the original building was converted into a retirement community called Ascension Living Fox Knoll Village, which is still in operation today. The medical institution still operates under the name Ascension Mercy Hospital and is located north of West Indian Trail on Highland Avenue.

Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) Health Care was originally established in 1918 as the Aurora Child Welfare Clinic Association. The name was changed to Visiting Nurse Association in 1953. VNA of Elgin became part of VNA of Aurora in 1986, and the name was changed to VNA of the Fox Valley in 1988.[5] In 2024, it operates 12 centers across several different Chicago suburbs.

The Dreyer Medical Clinic was built in 1922. They were absorbed into Advocate Health Care Systems in the 1990s and continue operating as Advocate Medical Group Primary Care.

SCOPE & CONTENT

This collection contains newspaper clippings and informational pamphlets about healthcare facilities in Aurora from 1878 to 2023. Most of the materials focus on the four major medical institutions in Aurora: Copley Hospital (Rush Couple Medical Center), St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital (Ascension Mercy Hospital), VNA Health Care, and Dreyer Medical Clinic (Advocate Medical Group Primary Care). Also included is information about blood banks, nursing homes, and general healthcare in Aurora. Folders are organized alphabetically by name.

SUBJECT TERMS

- Blood Banks
- Doctors
- Health facilities
- Hospitals, Proprietary
- Nursing homes
- Public hospitals

[4] Rush Copley Medical Center, 1886-present - Rush University Medical Center Archives - Library of RUSH University Medical Center at RUSH University Medical Center

[5] "VNA Special Anniversary Edition Annual Report, 1997-98," Visiting Nurse Association folder.

Hospitals and Healthcare

RELATED MATERIALS

Researchers interested in this archive may also wish to consult the following resources in the APLD holdings:

Community History Reference Collection

- Aurora City Directories
- The Aurora Story (REF.GLH 977.323 DERR,V)
- The Hispanic Encounter with Copley Hospital: An Ethnography (REF.GLH 362.11 COON,J)
- St. Charles Hospital : Souvenir of dedication, Aurora, Illinois, October 23, 1932 (REF.GLH 362.1109 STC)
- St. Joseph Mercy Hospital : Souvenir of dedication, Aurora, Illinois September 20, 1931 (REF.GLH 271.92 STJ)

Subject Files

- People from Aurora—Copley, Ira C.
- People from Aurora—Green, Lida
- People from Aurora—Knight, Mary Catherine
- People from Aurora—Santori, Gina
- People from Aurora—Slater, Catherine

CONTENT LISTING

Folder Title

Blood Banks
Copley Hospital
Dr. Pond's Cancer Hospital
Doctors
Dreyer Medical Clinic
Fox Knoll
Hospitals – General
Jennings Terrace
McAuley Manor
Mercyville Sanitarium
Nursing Homes
Old Ladies Home
Plum Landing
Provena (Mercy) Hospital
Public Health
Rush Copley Hospital

Hospitals and Healthcare

St. Charles Hospital
St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital
Springbrook
Sunnymere
Visiting Nurse Association

Houses of Worship

Finding Aid
Community History Collection
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SUMMARY

Date range:	1854-2022
Bulk dates:	1866-1867, 1887, 1907, 1937
Extent:	84 Folders
Creator:	N/A
Language(s):	English
Processed by:	Ethan Mikolay; Cailín Cullen; Robb Winder

ABSTRACT

This collection contains numerous newspaper clippings, along with some worship programs and directories.

ACCESS & USE

Acquisition information:	Accruals are expected.
Access restrictions:	Collection is open and available for use.
Copyright:	Copyright restrictions apply.
Preferred citation:	[Item Description], [Folder Title], Houses of Worship, Aurora Public Library District Community History Collection, Aurora, IL

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION / ORGANIZATION HISTORY

Organized religion came to Aurora with the first Anglo-American people to settle in this area. Samuel McCarty helped found the First Methodist Episcopal Church in 1837, and its first meetings were held in his home.[6] After serving Aurora for 174 years, it closed in 2011.[7] It held the record of Aurora's oldest standing church until 2024, when Trinity Episcopal Church surpassed it with 175 years of operation.[8]

The second church that was organized (1838), and the first church to be built (1841), was the First Presbyterian Church of Aurora. On January 18, 1844, the church adopted a resolution declaring it "an anti-slavery church," and in fact, eventually withdrew from the

[6] Derry, Vernon. *Aurora in the Beginning*. Edited by Mabel O'Donnell, Aurora Historical Museum, 1953.
[7] Brennan, Matt. "Aurora's Oldest Church Prepares for Final Service." *The Beacon-News*, 19 June 2011, pp. 6.
[8] "Who Are We." *Trinity Aurora*, trinityaurora.org/our-history. Accessed 19 Aug. 2024.

Presbytery because they failed to condemn slavery.[9] For that reason, it became the First Congregational Church of Aurora on July 1, 1848. Church members' anti-slavery feelings grew steadily, and many played a part in Aurora's Underground Railroad. In fact, the church was known as the "Union Depot" of the Underground Railroad. Notably, Frederick Douglas spoke at the church on two occasions.[10]

Aurora's First Congregational Church also has its place it our national political history. On September 20, 1854, the Church hosted a "People's Convention," the purpose of which was to form an anti-slavery party. The delegates adopted the name "Republican" and laid out the principles and doctrines of their new political party.[11]

Aurora is home to several other churches with histories nearly as long. First Baptist Church was originally known as West Aurora Baptist Church. The congregation dates to 1837, but the church wasn't built until 1854. The structure that exists today was built in its place on Galena Boulevard at Oak Avenue, and the building was dedicated on May 6, 1888.[12]

The growing African American population in Aurora established two churches during, and just after, the Civil War. According to the 1860 census, there were 12 African Americans living in Aurora. Over the course of the next ten years, that number grew to 169.[13] Both churches, the African Methodist Episcopal Church (1862) and the Colored Baptist Church (1867; now Main Baptist), are still active today.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church (now Cathedral of Grace St. John) was the first Black congregation in Aurora, formed on June 13, 1862. They initially met over Pierpoint and Wright's grocery at 18 Main Street (Galena). A few years later, a society of African American men started holding meetings in the same location with the expressed goal to obtain the right of suffrage.[14] By 1890, the congregation had built a church at the southwest corner of Main (Galena) and East Avenue, and they continued services there for close to 100 years.[15] By 1902, the church was referred to as St. John.[16] After moving to Fourth Street in 1984, the church relocated to its current location on Bilter Road in 2010.[17]

The Colored Baptist Church has since gone through several name changes: Third Baptist

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[9] Buck, Dennis A. *From Slavery to Glory: African Americans Come to Aurora, Illinois 1850-1920*. Aurora Historical Society, 2005, pp. 65.
[10] Wheaton, Anna. "First Congregational Church History Largely that of the City." *The Aurora Beacon-News*, 22 August 1938, pp. 5.
[11] Derry, Vernon. *Aurora in the Beginning*. Edited by Mabel O'Donnell, Aurora Historical Museum, 1953.
[12] *Aurora Historic Houses of Worship Tour*. Aurora Historical Society, 2000.
[13] Buck, Dennis A. *From Slavery to Glory: African Americans Come to Aurora, Illinois 1850-1920*. Aurora Historical Society, 2005.
[14] Buck, Dennis A. *From Slavery to Glory: African Americans Come to Aurora, Illinois 1850-1920*. Aurora Historical Society, 2005, pp. 104-107.
[15] Aurora City Directory, 1887-1890.
[16] Aurora City Directory, 1902.
[17] "Our History." *Cathedral of Grace St. John*, cogstjohn.org/our-history. Accessed 23 Aug. 2024.

(1890s), Main Street Baptist when a new church was built (1925), and finally Main Baptist Church (1964).[18] By 1893, Third Baptist was located in the spot it still occupies today, at 570 Main Street (now 814 E. Galena Boulevard), which at that time was kitty-corner from the African Methodist Episcopal Church.[19]

The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad was a major driver in Aurora's economy and brought thousands of immigrants to Aurora in search of jobs. Its first shops opened in 1856. Throughout the 1850s and 1860s, the Aurora population grew tenfold, with immigrants coming from Germany, Luxembourg, and Ireland, among others. Most of Aurora's immigrant communities lived on the east side, where many of them worked.[20]

Aurora's churches reflected these demographics. The first Catholic church in Aurora was Sacred Heart in 1851. It burnt down 17 years later, and its Irish congregation built a new church on the east side. At that time, the east side was home to two other Catholic parishes that were conducting services in German and French.[21] St. Nicholas was Aurora's first German Catholic Church,[22] established in the 1860, and still exists today at its original location at Liberty and High Streets.

Several churches branched off from St. Nicholas, and the first of these was Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church. The founding members were immigrants from Luxembourg who wanted a church closer to their home in Big Woods.[23] The church was completed in 1877 and still exists in the same location today (now Church Road just south of I-88).

By the year 1900, 30 churches of varying Christian denominations served a population of 24,147 in Aurora, including several German, Swedish, and Irish churches.[24] Romanian immigrants began arriving around this time and built St. Michael Romanian Catholic Church, Byzantine Rite in 1909. The present church at Lincoln Avenue and Pierce Street was completed in 1917 after the population had already outgrown the original structure.[25]

In the 1910s and 1920s, Mexican immigrants started arriving in Aurora. Like most immigrants in Aurora, many of them worked for the railroad. The Eola Mexican Boxcar Camp was established just east of Farnsworth Avenue in the 1920s, and St. Therese Catholic Church was founded in 1925. The church still serves a large Hispanic population today at the southeast corner of Farnsworth Avenue and Liberty Street.

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[18] *Main Baptist Church*, www.mainbaptistchurch.org/about-us/our-history.html. Accessed 22 Aug. 2024.
[19] Aurora City Directory, 1890-1893.
[20] Buck, 26-27.
[21] Buck, 27-28.
[22] *Aurora Historic Houses of Worship Tour*. Aurora Historical Society, 2000.
[23] *Aurora Historic Houses of Worship Tour*. Aurora Historical Society, 2000.
[24] Aurora City Directory, 1900.
[25] *Aurora Historic Houses of Worship Tour*. Aurora Historical Society, 2000.

Houses of Worship

St. Nicholas, originally founded as a German church, and St. Jospeh Catholic Church also served Aurora's Hispanic community beginning in the 1920s and still do today. A second migration of Hispanic people to Aurora occurred in the 1950s-1980s. At that time, Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Aurora's east side began serving the growing Hispanic population.

The early 20th century also saw a second wave of Jewish immigrants arriving in Aurora. They organized in 1904, but the temple was not built until 1927 at 20 N. Lincoln Avenue.[26] In 1966, they sold the Temple to the Progressive Baptist Church and moved to the west side where Temple B'nai Israel still serves Aurora's Jewish community today.

In 1955, Chicago-born Reverend Robert Wesby moved to Aurora to serve as the pastor at Main Street Baptist Church. Wesby was a civil rights activist and was involved in several local organizations, such as the NAACP and Operation PUSH. He was a founding member of the Aurora Area Urban League, Aurora's first blood bank and first food pantry. In December 1963, he helped found the Progressive Baptist Church, an African American congregation. The church held services in the Little Theater of East Aurora High School until they purchased the formerly Jewish Temple.[27] The church is still in operation today and has since moved to Aurora's far west side.

South Asian immigrants began to settle on the far east side of Aurora in the early twenty-first century. These communities, just like other groups of immigrants before them, built houses of worship. Sri Venkateswara Swami Temple (1985) and Shiv Durga Hindu Temple (2019) serve Aurora's Hindu community.[28] The Islamic Center of Aurora was established in 2022 on Lake Street, just south of Prairie Street.[29]

Aside from meeting the spiritual needs of the Aurora community, religious institutions also meet its material needs. They work with other organizations in and around the city to meet the needs of underserved and at-risk communities. Wayside Cross Ministries – originally known as the Wayside Cross Rescue Mission – has been in operation since 1928. They provide food, clothing, and shelter for people experiencing homelessness in Aurora. To learn more about Wayside Cross Ministries, consult the Wayside Cross Mission folder, which is part of the Politics and Social Services collection. Other such institutions are the Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry and Lazarus House, both of which provide similar services for Aurorans in need.

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[26] "Our History." *Temple B'nai Israel*, www.temple-bnai-israel.org/history. Accessed 23 Aug. 2024.
[27] *Wesby: Pastor Robert "Bob" Wesby: Celebrating his Life & Legacy, Looking Back & Moving Forward.* Progressive Baptist Church, 2018.
[28] "Shiv Durga Hindu Temple: Aurora, Illinois: Worship, Events & Community." *Shiv Durga Temple*, www.shivdurgahindutemple.org/. Accessed 28 Aug. 2024.
[29] "About ICA." *About Islamic Center of Aurora - Masjid Hidayath*, www.masjidhidayath.org/about. Accessed 28 Aug. 2024.

Houses of Worship

SCOPE & CONTENT

This series contains numerous newspaper clippings, along with some worship programs and directories. Significant collections include Congregational Churches, First Baptist Church, First Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, General, and Park Place Baptist Church. Given its age and longevity, it is notable that the African Methodist Episcopal Church folder contains very few documents.

SUBJECT TERMS

- African American churches
- Catholic Church buildings
- Christianity
- Church
- Church work with the poor
- Judaism
- Hinduism
- Islam
- Methodist Church
- Presbyterian Church
- Underground Railroad

RELATED MATERIALS

Researchers interested in this archive may also wish to consult the following resources in the APLD holdings:

Archival Collection

- Local Churches – Box 18

Community History Reference Collection

- First Annual Gazetteer and Directory of the City of Aurora, ILL., 1868 – see "Churches and Societies", pp. 55-64.
- Aurora, Ill. Temple B'nai Israel. Dedication. REF.GLH 296.65 AUR
- Aurora's historic houses of worship tour. REF.GLH 726.509773 AUR
- First Presbyterian Church : a history REF.GLH 285.1 WALL,S
- A History of the First Baptist Church of Aurora, Illinois REF.GLH 286.177323 HIS
- Luxemburger immigrants to Aurora REF. 977.323 LIES (pp. 32-43)
- Records of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, Aurora, Illinois REF.GLH 287.83 REC v.2
- Through these doors : the story of New England Congregational Church, Aurora, Illinois REF.GLH 285.5 MCCA,G

Houses of Worship

- Wesby : Pastor Robert "Bob" Wesby: celebrating his life & legacy, looking back & moving forward. REF.GLH 286.5092 WES

Subject Files

- People from Aurora—Clark, John (Reverend)
- People from Aurora—Dix, Victor L. (Reverend)
- People from Aurora—Galt, Thomas (Reverend)
- People from Aurora—Stoughton, Jonathan C. (Reverend)
- People from Aurora—Wesby, Robert (Reverend)
- Political & Social Services—Food Pantries
- Political & Social Services—Wayside Cross Mission

CONTENT LISTING

Folder Title
** Indicates a folder with 3 or fewer documents*

Advent Christian Church
African Methodist Episcopal Church
American Lutheran Church*
Annunciation Catholic Church
Aurora Church of the Nazarene*
Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church*
Baptist Churches – General*
Bethany United Methodist Church*
Big Woods Congregational Church*
Catholic Churches – General
Christian Science Church
City of Light Anglican Church*
Claim Street Baptist Church
Colored Baptist Church*
Community Christian Church*
Congregational Churches
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
English Lutheran Church*
Episcopal Churches*
Evangelical Association*
Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer*
First Baptist Church
First Christian Church*
First Church of Christ Scientists*
First Congregational Church

Houses of Worship

First Evangelical Church*
First Methodist Church
First Presbyterian Church
First United Presbyterian Church
Fourth Street United Methodist Church
Free Methodist Church
Galena Street Methodist Church
Gayles Memorial Baptist Church*
General
German Evangelical Association
German Lutheran Church
German Methodist Episcopal Church
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Greater Mt. Olive Church of God in Christ
Greek Orthodox Churches*
Hercules Chapel*
Holy Angels' Catholic Church
Hungarian Presbyterian Church
Iglesia Luz Divina*
Jewish – General*
Lutheran Churches
Main Baptist Church
Main Avenue Baptist Church
Methodist Churches
Mosques*
New England Congregational Church
Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church
Park Place Baptist Church
People's Church
Redeemer Lutheran Church*
Romanian Baptist Church*
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
St. George's Catholic Church
St. John's African Methodist Episcopal Church
St. John's German Evangelical
St. Joseph's Catholic Church
St. Michael's Romanian Catholic Church
St. Mary's Catholic Church
St. Nicholas' Catholic Church
St. Olaf Lutheran Church
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
St. Peter's Catholic Church
St. Rita of Cascia Catholic Church
St. Therese Catholic Church*

Houses of Worship

Second Methodist Episcopal Church*
Seventh Day Adventist Church*
Sri Venkateswara Swami Temple*
Swedish Lutheran Church
Swedish Methodist Church
Synagogues
Tabernacle Church
Trinity (Episcopal) Church
Union Baptist Church
United Presbyterian Church
Universalist Church
Village Bible Church*
Wesley Methodist Church
Y.M.H.A. Temple
Zion Evangelical Church*

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CONTENT LISTING

Folder Title

Accidents—Ruth Lamb
Accidents and Disasters
African Americans in Aurora
Architecture
Aurora 1853
Aurora 1930
Aurora Guards
Aurora Leap Year
Aurora Light Guards
Aurora Village Charter 1853
Benbro Hotel
Bomb Scare
Box Car Community
Broadway Bill
Buildings—General
Cat Shows
Cholera 1849
COVID-19 Pandemic 2020
COVID-19 Pandemic 2021
COVID-19 Pandemic 2022
COVID-19 Pandemic 2023
Early Settlers
Earthquakes
Events
Events—Aurora Centennial

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Events—Aurora Chautauquas
Events—Day of the Dead
Events—Demisemisept Centennial
Events—Floods
Events—Floods—1996
Events—Juneteenth
Events—Millennium
Events—Presidential Visits
Events—Presidential Visits—Theodore Roosevelt
Events—Pride Parade
Events—Sesquicentennial
Events—U.S. Army Show (1943)
Famous Visitors
Festivals—Alley Art Fest
Festivals—Aurora Roots Festival
Festivals—Blues on the Fox
Festivals—Christkindlmarkt
Festivals—Christmas
Festivals—Christmas—Festival of Lights
Festivals—Christmas—Lehnertz Avenue Display
Festivals—Diwali
Festivals—Fiestas Patrias
Festivals—4th of July/Aurorafest
Festivals—Greek Fest
Festivals—Green Fest
Festivals—LaSalle Street Auto Row Car Show
Festivals—Memorial Day
Festivals—Midwest Literary Festival
Festivals—New Years-first Night
Festivals—Oktoberfest
Festivals—On the Wall Hip Hop Festival
Festivals—Puerto Rican Festival
Festivals—Roots Aurora
Festivals—Thanksgiving
Festivals—Winter Lights
Fires—General
Floods—19th Century
General History
General History—Aurora First
General History—1980's
General History—Friendship Train
General History—The Great Depression
General History—The Great Depression—CWA/PWA/WPA
General History—The Great Depression—NRA

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General History—The Great Depression—NYA
General History—The Lincolns
General History—Reminiscences
General History—Stolp Island
Henry Pratt Company Shooting
Historic Buildings—Armories
Historic Buildings—Aurora Depot
Historic buildings—Aurora Hotel
Historic Buildings—Coulter Opera House
Historic Buildings—Elks Club
Historic Buildings—G.A.R. Memorial Hall
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Historic Buildings—Graham Building
Historic Buildings—Grand Opera House
Historic Buildings—Healy Chapel
Historic Buildings—Hobbs Building
Historic Buildings—Holbrook Mill
Historic Buildings—Hotel Arthur
Historic Buildings—Houses
Historic Buildings—Leland Tower
Historic Buildings—Masonic Temple
Historic Buildings—Miscellaneous
Historic Buildings—1930's Post Office
Historic Buildings—Octagon House
Historic buildings—Old City Hall
Historic Buildings—The Roundhouse
Historic Buildings—Ruth Van Sickle Ford House
Historic Buildings—Silverplate Manufacturing Building
Historic Buildings—Tanner House
Historic Buildings—Y.M.C.A.
Historic Crimes—Murders
Historic Fires—Hotel Bishop
Historic Fires—Stolp Mill
Historic Houses—Copley Mansion
Historic Organizations—The Aurora Historical Society
Historic Organizations—Old Settlers Association
Houses—General
John Esser Embezzlement
Ku Klux Klan
LaSalle Street Car Dealers 1910-1911
Labor Unions
Labor Strikes
Labor Strikes—C. B. & Q.—1888
Labor Unrest

Local History

Macabre
Mastodons
McCarty Mills Gazette
Murders—Betsy Walsh
Murders—Edwin Kelchner
Murders—Ellen Terry
Murders—Emma Peterson
Murders—Erin Justice
Murders—Estelle Dumas
Murders—Fred Shoger
Murders—General
Murders—Gwendolyn Holden
Murders—Harriet Montgomery
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Murders—Jennie Miller
Murders—Jerry Weber
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Murders—Lillian DeKing
Murders—Marilyn Bethell
Murders—Nico Contreras
Murders—Ruby Thompson
Murders—Sandra Vasquez
Murders—Stoner Manufacturing Company
Murders—Theresa Hollander
Murders—Walter Buckley
Native Americans
Prohibition Aurora
Spanish Influenza in Aurora 1918
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St. Patrick's Day Procession
Steamboat
Train Wrecks
Underground Railroad
Valley Industrial Association
Veterans—General
Veterans—The Grand Army of the Republic
Veterans—Korean War
Veterans—Mexican War
Veterans—Non-Combat
Veterans—Veterans of Foreign Wars
Veterans—Vietnam—The Moving Wall
Veterans—War of 1812
Veterans—World War I
Veterans—World War II

Local History

Vice
Warren Lincoln Murder Case
Wars—The Civil War
Wars—The Civil War—36th Regiment/Fox River Regiment
Wars—General
Wars—Iraq/Afghanistan
Wars—Korean War
Wars—Memorials
Wars—Spanish American War
Wars—Vietnam War
Wars—War of 1812
Wars—World War I
Wars—World War II
Wars—World War II—Blood Drives
Wars—World War II—Enlistment 1942
Wars—World War II—Enlistment 1943
Wars—World War II—Enlistment 1944
Wars—World War II—Homefront
Wars—World War II—Rationing
Wars—World War II—Salvage Drives
Wars—World War II—Victory Gardens
Wars—World War II—War Bonds
Wars—World War II—War Fund

Local Industries

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SUMMARY

Date range:	1851-2017
Bulk dates:	1870-1907
Extent:	84 folders
Creator:	N/A
Language(s):	English
Processed by:	Ethan Mikolay; Cailín Cullen; April Voytas; Robb Winder

ABSTRACT

This collection includes newspaper clippings related to local Aurora industries from 1851 to 2017.

ACCESS & USE

Acquisition information:	Accruals are expected.
Access restrictions:	Collection is open and available for use.
Copyright:	Copyright restrictions apply.
Preferred citation:	[Item Description], [Folder Title], Local Industries, Aurora Public Library District Community History Collection, Aurora, IL

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION / ORGANIZATION HISTORY

Joseph McCarty built the first dam on the Fox River at the site that would become Aurora in 1834. When completed, it was three feet high, extending across the east channel, from what is now Galena Street to the island.[30] Dams were key infrastructure for settlers at that time and were often one of the first things to be built aside from shelter. Dams allowed early settlers to harness waterpower and were typically used for mills. Joseph McCarty built a sawmill first, which began operations on June 8, 1835. McCarty and his brother, Samuel, built a grist mill the following year. These mills were vital to the development of the city, as they allowed the McCarty brothers and other settlers to construct buildings using timber from the sawmill. The grist mill provided essential food stuff, without which the settlers would have to travel long distances to obtain.

[30] Centennial Historical and Biographical Record of Aurora for One Hundred Years, 1834-1937

Local Industries

In 1837, Joseph G. Stolp settled in Aurora. He built a water-powered woolen mill on the island that would later bear his name.[31] Stolp was known as the town's first real industrialist, and his mill was an important early establishment.[32] Prior to 1857, the east and west side of the river were separate settlements. Charles Hoyt purchased water rights in 1841 and built a dam that extended along the west channel of the Fox River. He then established a mill along the west bank called Black Hawk Mills. The Black Hawk brand of flour "was known far and wide and was a favorite in the New York markets as well as those of Chicago."[33] Waterpower for mills became less useful with the development of steam engines and the discovery of natural fuel beds.

In the late nineteenth century and throughout much of the twentieth century, the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy (CB&Q) railroad brought many jobs to Aurora and was a driving force in the growth of industry. The CB&Q roundhouse and railroad shop facility filled the 60-acre industrial site on the east side of the Fox River and was one of the Midwest's largest railroad shop facilities. It employed as many as 2,000 workers in periods of peak operation. The roundhouse is the oldest full roundhouse still standing. The company shops in Aurora served as the principal repair and construction facility for both locomotives and cars during the nineteenth century, and Aurora's central role remained strong well into the twentieth century. The CB&Q shops were Aurora's primary industry in the nineteenth century, and economic and labor issues related to them profoundly affected the local community.

In 1912, the company Allsteelequip was founded by former employees of Lyon Metal Products. Its name changed to All-Steel-Equip in 1929. Leading up to World War II, their plants – including the location in Aurora – produced a variety of products for different markets, including electrical boxes, office and kitchen cabinets, and food lockers. During World War II, they shifted to making products for the U.S. Navy. After the war, the company decided to assign each plant its own market specialization. The Aurora plant exclusively produced high-end office equipment from then on.[34] Since 1998, they've operated under the name Allsteel as a subsidiary of the HNI Corporation.[35]

SCOPE & CONTENT

This collection includes newspaper clippings related to industries in Aurora from 1851 to 2017. Notable industries include All Steel Equipment Company (82 years), Aurora Pump Company (80 years), Aurora Silverplate Manufacturing Company, Aurora Watch Company, Barber-Greene Company (71 years), Caterpillar, Love Brothers/Pyott Foundry (75 years), McCollum Sons Manufacturing Company (60 years), Miller-Bryant-Pierce Company (56

[31] Know Your Town, League of Women Voters of Aurora (1985), p. 1.
[32] Aurora in the Beginning (1953), p. 21.
[33] Fox River Report – Rivers and Lakes Commission (1914-15), pgs. 59-60.
[34] Hattwick, Richard E. *A Tale of Three Sheet Metal Fabricators: All Steel, Equipto, and Lyon Metal Products*. Western Illinois University Center for Business and Economic Research, 1976, pp. 9-11.
[35] "Our Story." *Allsteel*, www.allsteeloffice.com/about/our-story.

years), and Richards-Wilcox Manufacturing Company (1880-present). “Local Industries—General Information” includes Aurora company comparisons, lists of major employers (2003), directories of Aurora area firms (1940s, 1950s, 1970s), lists of items manufactured in Aurora, and articles about new industries opening in Aurora. Folders are organized alphabetically by name.

SUBJECT TERMS

RELATED MATERIALS

Researchers interested in this archive may also wish to consult the following resources in the APLD holdings:

Archival Collection

- Local Industries—Box 16
- Railroads—Box 32
- Barber-Greene—Box 33

Community History Reference Collection

- Aurora area major employers. REF.GLH 338.76 AUR 1997
- The Aurora Metal Company. REF.GLH 338.476712 HATT,R
- Barber-Greene (1916-1976). REF.GLH 338.4762186 HATT,R
- Catalogue no. G 25 Love Brothers Incorporated, Aurora, Illinois, U. S. A. : engineers, founders, machinists. REF.H 624.1821 LOVE
- The Caterpillar story. REF.GLH 338.76242252 CAT
- Greater Aurora "the City of Lights" : interesting views of public buildings, churches, schools, street scenes, handsome residences, and manufacturing industries. REF.H 977.323 GRE
- The Industrial interests of Aurora, Illinois : A review of its prominent progressive business men, leading industries, manufacturing and commercial advantages and transportation facilities ; also introductory historical sketch. REF.GLH 338.4 INDU
- Made in Illinois : a story of Illinois manufacturing. REF.H 670 MAD
- Material handling equipment, catalog no. 30. Stephens-Adamson Manufacturing Co. REF. H 670. S83
- Our first five decades. *Barber-Greene Company. REF.GLH 338.4762186 BARB*
- Reflections on the transformation of industrial Aurora, 1945-2010. *REF.GLH 338.4767092 REF*
- A tale of three sheet metal fabricators: All Steel, Equipto, and Lyon Metal Products. *REF.GLH 338.47672 HATT,R*
- The workingman does not need to be told how to live : Aurora, Illinois' working class fights local option, 1908-1918. *REF.GLH 305.562 BARL,S*

Subject Files

Local Industries

- Local History—Historic Buildings—Holbrook Mill
- Local History—Historic Buildings—Silverplate Manufacturing Building
- Local History—Historic Fires—Stolp Mill
- Local History—Labor Strikes
- Local History—Labor Strikes—C. B. & Q.—1888
- Local History—Labor Unions
- Local History—Labor Unrest
- Local History—Valley Industrial Association

CONTENT LISTING

Folder Title

All Steel Equipment Company
America's Brewing Company
American Suspender Company
American Well Works
American Wood Working Machine Company
American Automatic Machinery Company
Aurora Brewery
Aurora City Mills
Aurora Corset Company
Aurora Cotton Mills
Aurora Creamery
Aurora Foundry
Aurora Machine and Tool Company
Aurora Manufacturing Company
Aurora Metal Company
Aurora Piano Company
Aurora Products
Aurora Pump Company
Aurora Silverplate Manufacturing Company
Aurora Watch Company
Austin-Western Company
Barber-Greene Company
Black Hawk Mills
Burgess-Norton Company
Canning Factory
Caterpillar
Challenge Mill Company
Chicago Corset Company
Chicago Pneumatic Tool Company
Colby Manufacturing Company

Local Industries

Consumers Ice company
DACfO, Incorporated
Durabilt Manufacturing
Equipto
Forfit Company
Fox River Bleaching and Dye Company
Garbe Iron Works
General Information
Hercules Iron Works
Hill Sash Factory
Hoyt and Brothers Manufacturing Company
Independent Pneumatic Tool Company
International Corset Company
Love Brothers/Pyott Foundry
Lyon Metal Products
Mason Factory
McCollum Sons Manufacturing Company
McCormick Harvesting
McKee Door Company
Messenger and Parks
Miller-Bryant-Pierce Company
Monarch Automobile Company
Motor Company
Northern Illinois Gas Company
Oberweis Dairy
Pictorial Printing Company
Pines Engineering Company
R & M Kaufmann Company
Railroads
Railroads—Aurora Branch Railroad
Railroads—Aurora, Elgin and Chicago Railroad
Railroads—Aurora, Elgin and Fox River Railroad
Railroads—Aurora, Rockford and DeKalb Railroad
Railroads—Chicago, Aurora and Elgin Railroad
Railroads—Electric Railroads
Railroads—Northwestern Railroad
Rathbone and Sard Stove Works
Richards-Wilcox Manufacturing Company
Riddle Stone Quarry
Sealmaster
Smelting Works
Standard Coil
Stephens-Adamson Manufacturing Company
Stolp Woolen Mill

Local Industries

Stoner Manufacturing Company
Street Railways
Thor
Toyota
W. S. Frazier and Company
Wegman Construction Company
Western United Gas and Electric
Western Wheeled Scraper Company
William F. Jobbins Incorporated
Wright and Hill Sash Company

People from Aurora

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CONTENT LISTING

Folder Title

Agnew, Charles Livingston
Akinosun, Morolake
Albright, Rick
Alexander David
Alexander, John
Allen, Fannie (Quereau)
Alschuler, Benjamin
Alschuler, Carolyn
Alschuler, Charles
Alschuler, George
Alschuler, Jacob
Alschuler, Samuel
Alshuler, Harry
Anderson, Mark
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Andrews, George
Arcouet, Casimir
Arroyo, Gonzalo
Ascot, Rita
Atkins, J. H.
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Beaupré, William S.
Becker, Kurt
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Bemnedict, E. U.
Benkert, Gerald
Berman, Dale
Blanford, William
Boatright, Ryan
Boger, Calvin (“Cal”)
Boger, Henry
Boger, Thomas
Bohr, Luke
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Brady, Lorenzo
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Clabby, Jimmy

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Coglan, Ed
Colledge, W. A.
Collins, Donnell
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DEtweiler, Joseph s.
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Dorchester, Edward
Dowd, Ryan
Drake, Earl
Dreyer, John
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Dunham, John C.
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Einert, “Sailor” (August?)
Enck, Freddie
English, Larry
Erickson, Norris
Evans, H. H.
Fabyan, George W.
Fauth, Edward
Fauth, Fred
Fearn, Harold
Filip, George
Fink, Julia
Fitch, W. H.
Ford, Ruth Van Sickle
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Frantz, Emily

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Fridley, Benjamin F.
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Hackney, Benjamin
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Halfvarson, Sten
Hall, Abraham Thompson
Hall, Aurella
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Hall, Frank Haven
Hall, Lloyd Augustus
Hall, Myron V.
Hanny, Frank

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Jaros, John
Jenks, Albert
Johnson, Clifford
Johnson, Grace (Hobbs)
Jones, Charles (“Bumpus”)
Jordan, Hector
Jungles, Don
Karademas, David
Kendall, John W.
Kerkman, Gordon (“Gordie”)

People from Aurora

King, John
Kirsch, Agnes
Kivisto, Ernie
Klein, Peter
Knickerbocker, O. B.
Knight, Mary Catherine (Doctor)
Kramer, Bill
Krug, Rose
Kruger, Art
Lage, Arthur
Lake, Thoeodore
Langlitz, Mark Vincent
Lauzen, Leo
Laz, Don
LeMay, Alan
Letcher, Tom
Li, Anna
Liens, Isadore
Lies, John
Lies, John (II)
Lietz, Charles
Livingston, John
Locher, Dick
Locke, Robert “Bob”
Lorenz, Bill
Luckinbill, Herschel
Mackey, Ryan
Malcor, G. C.
Malmer, Eugene
Mamminga, Muriel
Marshall, Stephanie
May, Otto
McCarty Family
McCleery, Wayne
McCollum, George
McCoy, Albert
McCullough, W. L. (“Les”)
McGill, Dezo
McKee, Chet
McKnight, Anne
Meinert, Walter
Meketi, John
Merrihew, W. G.
Meyer, Bud

People from Aurora

Michels, Frank
Millen, Edwin
Miller, Olive Beaupré
Miller, Silas
Minor, Wendell
Minott, John Edward
Mitchler, Robert
Moga, Bobvg
Moriarity, “Beck” (Edward?)
MrzKvicka, Lewis
Muhammed, Clayton
Milvey, Joseph
Murphy, Michael
Nelson, Oscar (“Battling Nelson”)
Newton, Bruce (Garfield Goose creator)
Nicholson, Amos
Nicholson, Grace
Nila, Senobio
Nilan, Diane
O’Connor, Bob
O’Donnell, Mabel
O’Malley Family
Oberweis, Joseph
Oberweis, Peter
Odmark, Marion
Olah, Bob
Olsaver, Frank T.
Ormond, Crissy
Ormond, Margery
Ormond, Mary Clark
Ormond, Neal
Ormond, Paul
Oros, John
Parks, Benjamin Franklin
Parrington, Vernon Louis
Patterson, Don
Patterson, Family
Paul. Earl E.
Perez, Pat
Perez, Pete
Perkins, Melvin
Perry, Lillian
Perry, Stanley
Phillips, Charles

People from Aurora

Phillips, Jim – *see "The Fox"*
Phillips, Tidye (Pickett—African American Olympian)
Piedlow, Mrs. Julius
Pierce, David
Plain, Eleanor
Ponquinette, Charles
Poole, Odelle
Pooley, Dortha
Poulos, Harry
Powell, Maud
Powell, W. B.
Powell Family
Pratt, D. C.
Preiss, Emil
Prisco, Tony
Quereau, George W.
Ream, Jerry
Rennerm, Elizabeth
Renteria, Robert
Reuland, Charlene
Reuland, Rose Marie
Rigaud, Marie
Ridgers, Fred
Rollins, Edna
Rush, Thomas
St. Arnaud, Charles E.
Santori, Gina (Doctor)
Santori, Richard
Santry, Ed
Sawyer, Wells M.
Schindlbeck, Joseph P.
Schingoethe Family
Schlitz, Grover
Schmuck, Nell Stolp
Schneider Family
Schoeberlein, Adam
Schoenfielder, Charles J.
Schoppback, Charles H.
Schramer, LeRoy
Scott-Wilkinson, Sheila
Sencenbaugh Family
Settles, William
Seymour, Ira E.
Shabbona

People from Aurora

Shaw, James
Shilts, Randy
Simmons, Clifton
Skariatina, Irina
Skilling, Tom
Slaker, Adam
Slater, Catherine (Doctor)
Smith, Charles
Smith, Charles C.
Smith, Clarence Raymond
Smith, Gertrude
Smith, Warren
Squire, Viola B.
Steck, Reba
Stein, Edwin A.
Stengel, Casey
Stewart, James A.
Still, Jeff
Stockwell, D. W.
Stoll, Harold
Stolp, Allen
Stolp, Charles H.
Stolp, Joseph
Stoughton, Jonathan C. (Reverend)
Stover, David
Stover, Milo
Strever, John
Strong, Ted
Sullivan, Marty
Szilage, John
Taggart, Robert
Tait, Joe
Tanner Family
Tarble, Albert
Terry, Enoch
Thielen, Frank
Thomas, Hiram W.
Thompson, Glen
Thompson, Steven
Thon, George
Todd, Mary
Townsend, Charles A.
Trippon, George
Truemper, Walter

People from Aurora

Turner, George Pope
Turner, Nelson (“Mike”)
Vanderlip, Frank
Van Deventer, Emily (“Lawrence Lynch”)
Vasquez, Jesse
Vaughan, Daniel (Revolutionary War)
Vaughan, Jim
Velesquez, Art
Vizin, Victoria
Vos, Sue
Wade, Davied R.
Wagner, Joel
Waidley Family
Waitt, Dan M.
Waldo, K. D.
Wall, Hope
Walter, William
Walters, Celeste
Walters, Wilbert / Sundowners
Ward, Katherine (Howard)
Watson, Claude
Waubonsie
Wedge, Daniel
Wegman, Emma & Robert
Weisner, Tom
Welton, Joshua
Wernicke, Alice Doty
Wesby, Barbara
Wesby, Robert (Reverend)
White, James (“Deacon”)
White, Lewis (“Lutz”)
Wicker, Mary Hackney
Wilder Family
Wilkinson, Marie
Williams, C. W.
Williams, Donna
Willis, Marie Glidden (Attorney)
Winton, Burr
Woodruff, Martin
Young, Delos M.
Young, Keith
Young, Nancy
Young, Richard
Ziegler, John Michael

Politics and Social Services

Finding Aid
Community History Collection
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ACCESS & USE

Acquisition information:	Accruals are expected.
Access restrictions:	Collection is open and available for use.
Copyright:	Copyright restrictions apply.
Preferred citation:	[Item Description], [Folder Title], Politics and Social Services Series, Aurora Public Library District Community History Collection, Aurora, IL

CONTENT LISTING

Folder Title

Adult Literacy
Alcohol
Animal Control
Association for Individual Development
Aurora Crime-2003
Aurora Crime-2004
Aurora Crime—2005
Aurora Crime—2006
Aurora Crime—2007
Aurora Crime—2009
Aurora Crime—2010-2011
Aurora Human Rights Commission
Bullying
Breaking Free (Family Support Center)
CASA—Court Appointed Special Advocates
Child Welfare Society
Cities in Schools
Civil Rights
Climate Change
Community Chest
Community Counseling Center
Community Resource Team
Delius Orphanage
Domestic Violence
Dominican Literacy Center

Politics and Social Services

Drug Abuse
Employment
Equal Rights Amendment
Family Counseling
Family Focus
Food Pantries
Fox Valley Animal Welfare League
Gambling
Gangs
God's Gym
Gun Control
Habitat for Humanity
Healthcare
Hesed House
Holocaust
Homelessness
Housing
Human Relations Council
Humane Society
Immigration
Jeanine Nicarico Children's Advocacy Center
Joseph Corporation
Juvenile Protective Association
Kane County Poor House
LGBTQ+ Civil Rights
Marie Wilkinson Child Development Center
Mutual Ground
My Father's Hands
NAACP – Kane County
Obesity
Planned Parenthood
Pollution
Poverty
Prayer Coalition for Reconciliation
Pregnancy Information Center
Public Health Association
Red Cross
Refugees
Republican Party
Robberies
Salvation Army
Senior Citizens
Senior Services Association
Temperance

Politics and Social Services

Terrorism
Triple Threat Mentoring
United Way
Urban League
Veteran's Assistance
Visiting Nurses Association
Wayside Cross Mission
Women's Roles

Schools and Education

Finding Aid
Community History Collection
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SUMMARY

Date range:	1854-2023
Bulk dates:	1885-1887, 1942-1946, 1967, 1997-1998, 2011-2013
Extent:	88 Folders
Creator:	N/A
Language(s):	English
Processed by:	Ethan Mikolay; Cailín Cullen; Robb Winder

ABSTRACT

This collection contains newspaper clippings, school report cards, and informational pamphlets regarding schools and educational facilities across Aurora.

ACCESS & USE

Acquisition information:	Accruals are expected.
Access restrictions:	Collection is open and available for use.
Copyright:	Copyright restrictions apply.
Preferred citation:	[Item Description], [Folder Title], Schools and Education, Aurora Public Library District Community History Collection, Aurora, IL

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION / ORGANIZATION HISTORY

The two largest school systems in Aurora today are East Aurora School District 131 and West Aurora School District 129. Combined, they serve approximately 24,000 students and employ approximately 1,700 teachers.[36] They both have storied histories that date back to the 19th century. East Aurora School District was established in 1851 as "the state's first free public school district" and West Aurora School District was established in 1852.[37]

Two notable superintendents from East and West schools were William Bramwell Powell and Frank Haven Hall. Powell was the East Aurora superintendent from 1870 to 1886. He was the father of violinist Maud Powell and younger brother of John Wesley Powell, the

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[36] "Aurora West USD 129 Teachers."; "Aurora East USD 131 Students." *Illinois Report Card*, www.illinoisreportcard.com/. Accessed 18 July 2024.

[37] Solarz, Steve. *Aurora's East-West Football Rivalry: The Longest-Running Series in Illinois*. The History Press, 2014.

famed Grand Canyon explorer. The brothers helped co-found the National Geographic Society in 1888. Hall served as West Aurora superintendent 1868-1875 and 1887-1890. He presided over the first high school graduation in 1870. He left Aurora in 1890 to take up a post as Superintendent of the School for the Blind in Jacksonville, Illinois. While there, Hall unveiled his Braille typewriter. His invention helped make Braille the dominant form of written communication for people with visual impairments.

In 1986, the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA) opened its doors. At the time, it was only "the third residential public high school in the nation for gifted students".[38] In 2024, it enrolled nearly 650 students.[39]

Aurora also has religious schools with roots dating back to the nineteenth century. Illinois' first religious school, Clark Seminary, opened in 1859 by the Reverend John Clark. It was later renamed Jennings Seminary in 1864 after a significant donation from Elizabeth Wallace Jennings, an Irish American philanthropist who immigrated to the midwestern United States at a young age.[4041] During World War II, it became a nursing home, and it continues to operate to this day as Jennings Terrace.[42] Marmion Academy, formerly known as Marmion Military Academy, is a private religious preparatory school that opened in 1933. In 2024, it enrolled nearly 550 students.[43]

In terms of higher education, the two most prominent institutions in Aurora are Waubonsee Community College and Aurora University. The former opened in 1967 and now operates across four different buildings: two in Downtown Aurora, one next to Rush Copley Medical Center, and one in Plano. Aurora University is significantly older. Originally known as Mendota College, it began in 1893 as a seminary school in Mendota, Illinois. In 1912, the school relocated its operations to Aurora and changed its name to Aurora University.[44]

SCOPE & CONTENT

This collection primarily contains newspaper clippings, school report cards, and informational pamphlets regarding schools and educational facilities across Aurora. The

[38] "Future Is Bright for Whiz Kids." *Chicago Sun-Times*, 24 Sept. 1986, pp. 36. [Illinois Math and Science Academy folder].

[39] *Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy in Aurora, IL - US News Best High Schools*, www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/illinois/districts/il-mathematics--science-academy/illinois-mathematics-and-science-academy-6424. Accessed 18 July 2024.

[40] "Jennings History." *Jennings Terrace*, www.jenningsterrace.com/jennings-history.html. Accessed 18 July 2024.

[41] "Jennings, Elizabeth (Eliza) Wallace." *Encyclopedia of Cleveland History | Case Western Reserve University*, 11 May 2018, case.edu/ech/articles/j/jennings-elizabeth-eliza-wallace.

[42] "Jennings History." *JENNINGS TERRACE*, www.jenningsterrace.com/jennings-history.html. Accessed 18 July 2024.

[43] "Marmion Academy." *U.S. News Education*, www.usnews.com/education/k12/illinois/marmion-academy-307367. Accessed 18 July 2024.

[44] "About Aurora University." *Aurora University*, aurora.edu/about/index.html. Accessed 18 July 2024.

largest folders are Aurora Central Catholic High School, Aurora Christian School, Aurora University, District 129 (West Side) Schools, District 131 (East Side) Schools, East Aurora High School, Illinois Math and Science Academy, Jennings (Clark) Seminary, Marmion Military Academy, Waubonsie Community College, and West Aurora High School.

SUBJECT TERMS

- Elementary schools
- High schools
- Private schools
- School districts
- Theological seminaries
- Universities and colleges

RELATED MATERIALS

Researchers interested in this archive may also wish to consult the following resources in the APLD holdings:

- Annual Report of the Board of Education REF.H 379.773 AUR-E
- Aurora's East-West football rivalry : the longest-running series in Illinois REF.GLH 796.33262 SOLA,S
- The Jennings Terrace story : Clark Seminary and Aurora Institute, Jennings Seminary, old Jennings Terrace, new Jennings Terrace, Kemmerer Annex REF.H 977.323 JEN
- Upon a rock : a history of the founding years of Aurora University REF.GLH 378.773 ANDE,C
- Archival Collection
    - Clark/Jennings Seminary – Boxes 1 and 2
    - West Aurora High School – Boxes 7 and 8
    - Schools-General/Colleges – Box 22
    - East Aurora High – Box 27
- Yearbook Collection

CONTENT LISTING

Folder Title
** Indicates a folder with 3 or fewer documents*

Abraham Lincoln School
Adult Education*
Annunciation Catholic School*
Archbishop Romero (formerly St. Nicholas) School

Schools and Education

Aurora Central Catholic High School
Aurora Charter Schools
Aurora Christian School
Aurora Schools – General
Aurora Test Scores
Aurora University
Bardwell Elementary School*
Big Woods School:
Business Schools
Center School*
Columbia Conservatory
Communities in Schools Academy*
Cowherd Middle School*
Crone Middle School*
District 129 (West Side) Schools
District 131 (East Side) Schools
District 204
East Aurora High School
East Junior High School*
Emmanuel Lutheran School
Fearn Elementary School*
Fight Songs*
Francis Granger Middle School*
Fred Rodgers Magnet Academy*
Gates Elementary School*
George N. Dieterich School*
Georgetown Elementary School*
Greenman Elementary School
Gregory Fischer Middle School*
Gwendolyn Brooks Elementary School*
Hall Elementary School*
High Schools – Yearbook Names and Mascots*
Illinois Math and Science Academy
Indian Creek School*
Indian Plains Elementary School*
Indian Prairie School District
J.H. Freeman School
Jefferson Middle School*
Jeffrey C. Still Middle School*
Jennings (Clark) Seminary
Jewel Middle School*
John C. Dunham STEM School
Johnson Elementary School*
John W. Gates Elementary School

Schools and Education

K.D. Waldo Middle School (formerly East Aurora High School)*
Largent Academy of Music
L.D. Brady Elementary School
Madonna High School
Mary A. Todd School
Marmion Military Academy
McCarty Elementary School*
Metea Valley High School
Nancy Hill School
Neuqua Valley High School*
Nicholson Elementary School*
Nursing Schools*
Oak Street School
O'Donnell Elementary School*
Oak Park Elementary School
Old Stone School*
Olney C. Allen Elementary School
Parochial Schools – General
Private Schools*
Rasmussen College*
Reba O. Steck Elementary School*
Robert L. Herget Middle School*
Rosary High School
School Consolidation
St. Augustine College*
St. Paul's Lutheran School
St. Therese School*
Schneider Elementary
School Dress Code*
Simmons Middle School
Seventh Day Adventists' School*
Smith Elementary School*
Transfiguration College*
W.S. Beaupre Elementary School
Washington Middle School
Waubonsie Community College
Waubonsie School House*
Waubonsie Valley High School
Wayne E. McCleery Elementary School
West Aurora High School

Social and Civic Organizations

Finding Aid
Community History Collection
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ACCESS & USE

Acquisition information:	Accruals are expected.
Access restrictions:	Collection is open and available for use.
Copyright:	Copyright restrictions apply.
Preferred citation:	[Item Description], [Folder Title], Social and Civic Organizations Series, Aurora Public Library District Community History Collection, Aurora, IL

CONTENT LISTING

Folder Title

Altrusa Club
American Association of University Women
American Businesswomen's Association
American Legion Posts
Ancient Order of Hibernians
Ann Ward Service Club
Aurora Area Convention and Tourism Council
Aurora Citizens Together
Aurora Community Study Circle
Aurora Foundation/Aurora Community Foundation
Aurora Light Guards
Automobile Clubs
Boy Scouts
Boys II Men
Business and Professional Women's Club
Catholic Daughters of America
Chamber of Commerce
Citizens Tax Council
City Club
Conimur Reading Circle
Daughters of the American Revolution
Eastern Star
Elks
Equal Suffrage Society
Exchange Club

Social and Civic Organizations

4H Clubs
Fox Valley Folklore Society
Fox Valley Genealogical Society
Fox Valley Watch & Clock Collectors Guild
Friendly Center Club
Garden Clubs
General Information
Girl Scouts
Hawthorne Club
History and Literature Circle
Independent Order of Oddfellows
Irish Club
Kiwanis Club
Knights of Columbus
Krieger Verein
League of Women Voters
Lions Club
Little Q Model Railroad Club
Luxemburger Club
Masons
Midwest Early Pressed Glass Club
Minerva Coterie
Moose Club
Motorcycle Clubs
Navy Mothers
Optimist Club
Phoenix Club
Republican Women's Club of Aurora
Rotary Club
St. Cecelia Musical Club
Shriners Club
Tom-A-Hawk Club
Turners Club
Twilight Croquet Club
Urban League
War Mothers and Mothers of World War II
West Side Reading Circle
Women's Christian Temperance Union
Women's Club of Aurora
Women's Relief Corps
Young Men's Christian Association
Young Women's Christian Association
Zonta

Sports, Arts, Entertainment and Recreation

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Community History Collection

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Acquisition information:	Accruals are expected.
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Copyright:	Copyright restrictions apply.
Preferred citation:	[Item Description], [Folder Title], Sports, Arts, Entertainment and Recreation Series, Aurora Public Library District Community History Collection, Aurora, IL

CONTENT LISTING

Folder Title

A Town Poetics
Acorns
Architects
Art Exhibitions
Art Galleries
Athletic Boat Club
Aurora Architecture—General
Aurora Architecture-Homes—General
Aurora Art League
Aurora Boat Club
Aurora Clippers—General
Aurora Clippers—1939
Aurora Clippers—1940
Aurora Clippers—1941
Aurora Clippers-1946
Aurora Clippers-1948
Aurora Clippers-1949
Aurora Clippers-1950
Aurora Clippers-1951
Aurora Clippers-1952
Aurora Clippers-1953
Aurora Clippers-1954
Aurora Clippers-1955
Aurora Clippers-1956
Aurora Clippers-1957

Sports, Arts, Entertainment and Recreation

Aurora Clippers-1958
Aurora Clippers-1959
Aurora Cornet Band
Aurora Country Club
Aurora Downs Racetrack
Aurora Dramatic Club
Aurora Driving Park
Aurora Orchestral Club/Orchestra Society
Aurora Regional Fire Museum
Aviation Museum
Baseball—General
Baseball—1900
Baseball—1901
Baseball—1902
Baseball—1903
Baseball—1904
Baseball—1905
Baseball—1906
Baseball—1907
Baseball—1908
Baseball—1909
Baseball—1910
Baseball—1911
Baseball—1912
Baseball—1913
Baseball—1914
Baseball—1915
Baseball—1916
Baseball—1917
Baseball—1919
Basketball
Bicycling
Blackberry Farm
Blues Music—Fox Valley Blues Society
Boxing
Choral Groups
Circuses
Concerts—19th Century
Concerts—20th Century
Coulter Opera House
Cowan Collection
Cricket
Croquet
David L. Pierce Art and History Center

Sports, Arts, Entertainment and Recreation

East-West Football Game
Exposition Park
Film Locations
Football
Fox River Park
Fox Theater
Fox Valley Arts Council
Fox Valley Arts Hall of Fame
Fox Valley Festival Chorus
Fox Valley Park District
Fox Valley Park District—Prisco Center
Fox Valley Orchestra
Gold
Hi Lite 30 Drive In
Garfield Goose
Hollywood Casino
Horse Racing
Indoor Baseball
Island Skating Rink
Kane County Cougars
Lafayette Players
Lamplighter Chorus
Light Guard Band
Local Actors
Local Art—General
Local Artists
Local Athletes
Local Authors—Pre 1950
Local Authors—Post 1950
Local Dance
Local Entertainment
Local Film and Television
Local Musicians
Local Photographers
Local Theater
May Street Park
McCarty Park
Minstrel Shows
Music—1900's
Music—1910's
Music—1920's
Music—1930's
Music—1940's
Music—1950's

Sports, Arts, Entertainment and Recreation

Music—1960's
Music—1970's
Music—1980's
Music—1990's
Music—2000's
Music—2010's
Musicians
Occidental Music Association/Orchestra
Opera House
Paralympics
Paramount Art Center
Parks and Playgrounds
Phillips Park
Public Art—General
Radio Stations
Reif and Arenson
Rialto Theater
RiverEdge Park
Riverfront Playhouse
Riverview Park
Riverwalk Commission
Roller Hockey
Roller Skating
Roosevelt-Aurora Post 84 Legion Band
Ryder's Cornet Band
Schingoethe Center for Native American Cultures
SciTech
Schingoethe Center for Native American Cultures
Sealmasters Softball Team
Skating
Skylark Theater
Soccer
Sports—General
Stage Company, Ltd.
Star Theater
Swimming Stones
Television
Tennis
Theaters—General
Tivoli Theater
Westminster Quartet
Whist
Wilder Park
Woman's Amateur Chorus

Sports, Arts, Entertainment and Recreation

WPA Murals

Technology and Science

Finding Aid

Community History Collection

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SUMMARY

Date range:	1851-2019
Bulk dates:	1967, 2010-2019
Extent:	16 Folders
Creator:	N/A
Language(s):	English
Processed by:	Ethan Mikolay; Cailín Cullen; Robb Winder

ABSTRACT

This collection contains numerous newspaper clippings, as well as some pamphlets and legal documents, regarding important technological and scientific developments in Aurora, IL spanning from 1851-2019.

ACCESS & USE

Acquisition information:	Accruals are expected.
Access restrictions:	Collection is open and available for use.
Copyright:	Copyright restrictions apply.
Preferred citation:	[Item Description], [Folder Title], Technology & Science, Aurora Public Library District Community History Collection, Aurora, IL

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION / ORGANIZATION HISTORY

The City of Aurora is best known for being the first city in Illinois – and one of the first in the country – to electrify its streetlights, granting it the moniker “City of Lights”. On November 8th, 1881, the lights were turned on for the first time. Consult the folder “Street Lights” in the “City of Aurora” series to find newspaper clippings and more about this technological development.

This collection focuses on other technological and scientific developments in Aurora and the surrounding Western Suburbs of Chicago.

One such development – Fermilab – was at the forefront of both science and technology when it opened in 1967 in Batavia, Illinois. Among other accomplishments, it was home to the world’s largest particle accelerator – the Tevatron – from 1983 to 2008, after which it

was topped by Switzerland's Large Hadron Collider. Tevatron was eventually shut down in 2011 due to a lack of funding, but Fermilab continues to operate several other particle accelerators and conduct scientific research.[45]

Aurora also has a long, rich history of aviation. In 1910, there was a large public viewing of the Wright Brothers' first flight in Illinois, which drew thousands of spectators. By 1928, Aurora had an active airport which would eventually see use by small and large aircraft alike, including the behemoth B-17 Flying Fortress during World War II.[46] It was founded by a nationally renowned racing pilot, John Livingston. This airport eventually closed, only to be replaced by Aurora Municipal Airport, which opened nearby in 1966.[47]

SCOPE & CONTENT

This collection primarily contains newspaper clippings, along with information pamphlets, about significant technological and scientific developments in Aurora, IL. Most of the materials focus on Fermilab, William Blanford's clock, and aviation in Aurora. Also included is information about other local inventions, the introduction of automobiles on Aurora's roads, and general communication technology infrastructure. Folders are organized alphabetically by name.

SUBJECT TERMS

Aviation
Particle accelerators
Science
Technology

RELATED MATERIALS

Researchers interested in this archive may also wish to consult the following resources in the APLD holdings:

- The Aurora Story (REF.GLH 977.323 DERR,V)
- Draft environmental assessment for planned 5-year development at the Aurora Municipal Airport, Aurora, Illinois (REF 711.78 DRA)
- Part and parcel of nature Illinois tall grass prairie at Fermilab (Ref.H DVD 577.44 PAR)
- Aurora, city of lights (REF.GLH 977.323 AUR)

[45] Matson, John. *Life after Tevatron: Fermilab Still Kicking Even Though It Is No Longer Top Gun*. Scientific American, 2012.
[46] "Peter Julius is Sole Owner of Aurora Airport", Aurora Airport folder
[47] Aurora's 100 Years of Flight | Aurora Historical Society (aurorahistory.org)

Technology and Science

CONTENT LISTING

Folder Title

Air Traffic Control Center
Atomic Energy
Aurora Airport
Aviation
Blanford Clock
Fermilab
Fiber Optics
Local Inventions
Motor Vehicles
Radio
Solar Energy
Talkies
Telegraph
Telephones
Television
Wi-Fi