

Inventory of the

**DeKalb Township High School**  
DeKalb, Illinois

Collection

In the

Regional History Center

**RC 53**

## INTRODUCTION

The DeKalb Township High School Collection came to the Northern Illinois University Archives through individual donations (1965-1970's), and from material collected by Waite W. Embree and donated in 1967 to the University. Between January and May 1978 these items were transferred to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center by the University Archivist. Additional materials continue to be added to the collection.

Property rights in the collection are held by the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 3.00  
Number of containers: 4  
Northern Illinois Regional History Center  
Collection 53

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

These records partially document the history of the DeKalb Township High School from 1864 to 1987, with the bulk of the collection dating from 1903 to 1950. Although there are no records documenting administrative activities, the materials do provide information on social functions and organizations and sports events. The majority of the collection consists of high school publications: The Barb; The Barblet; New Pennies; and the Kalibre, the annual yearbook. Also included is one of the first composition books from 1864-1865, and a sewing class notebook from 1917.

Researchers should note that the collection also contains material which documents the Benign Order of the Yannigans. The Yannigans, a social club that sponsored and was involved in community sports, was formed in 1909 by several high school boys and continued to meet annually until 1941.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The first record of a graded school including high school level classes in DeKalb is that of a school built in 1861 at Third and Prospect Streets. In 1874 a class of four was graduated from this high school by Principal Ella C. Dunbar. This school was accredited by the University of Illinois and Southern Illinois University by 1894. When D.F. Herr became Superintendent of Schools in 1896, the four year course schedule and half-year promotions were instituted.

The DeKalb Township High School building was constructed in 1903. Additions were made in 1923 including a swimming pool, woodworking shops, athletic facilities, and a library. This school remained in use until the new building was built on Barb Boulevard and Fourth Streets in 1966. In August of 2011 a new DeKalb High School was dedicated at 501 West

Dresser Road. [The former High School on South Fourth Street has become Huntley Junior High, and the former Huntley is now Founders Grade School.]

As the area around DeKalb grew the Administration of the schools changed. From 1901 to 1954 separate systems were used for the elementary and high school, but in 1954 DeKalb set up a community unit district, # 428, to replace the dual system. This is the system under which the schools are presently administered.

### SUBJECT TRACINGS

DeKalb High School  
Education  
High Schools  
“New Pennies”  
Yannigans

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	
1	1	Development and Financial Information, (1940-1966)	
	2	Catalogues and Reports, 1903-1910	
	3	Grade Cards, 1921-1922	
	4	Student Directory, 1948-1949	
	5	Special Event Programs, (1888-1969)	
	6	Commencement Programs, (1888-1973)	
	7	Concert and Play Programs, (1902-1955)	
	8	Sports Programs, Schedules, and Funding Information, (1919-1970)	
	9	Composition Book, (1864-1865) (Index included)	
	10	Benign Order of the Yannigans Bylaws and Meeting Lists, (1914-1940)	
	11	The Yanniger Newsletters, (December 1909-July 1910)	
	12	Yannigan Correspondence, (1922-1945)	
	13	Yearbooks, 1901-1903	
	14-26	<u>The Barb</u> , 1904-1921	
2	1-13	<u>The Barb</u> , 1921-1935	
	14	<u>The Barblet</u> , 1937-1938	
3	1-4	<u>The Barblet</u> , 1943-1950	
	5	<u>The Barblet</u> , 1976-1978	
	6	<u>Quotannis</u> , 1903	
	7	"The Kalibarb," November 1935	
	8	Best of the Barbs: A Narrative of DeKalb High School Athletic Highlights by Chuck Dayton, 1980	
	9	Class of 1932 Reunion Materials, 1982	
	10	<u>New Pennies</u> , 1937, 1938, 1941, 1944, 1949, 1962, 1964-1967, 1973, 1987	
	11	Helen Johnson's Sewing Class Notebook, ca. 1917	
	12	Helen Johnson's Literature Class Notebook, ca. 1917	
	13	Helen Johnson, Schoolwork, ca. 1917	
	4	1-14	<u>Kalibre</u> , Yearbooks: 1924, 1928, 1937 (2), 1938-1940, 1943-1950
		15	DeKalb High School Dedication edition of <u>Daily Chronicle</u> , August 25, 2011