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Louis N. Bear Collection,  
1888-1906

Collection 112

## Champaign County Historical Archives

**Compiled by:** Youngmie Han; Donica Martin

**Creator/Corporate name:** Louis N. Bear

**Inclusive Dates:** 1888-1904

**Physical Description:** 2 boxes, 2 linear feet

**Provenance:**

Louis N. Bear materials were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives.

**Biographical Note:**

Louis N. Bear was born on October 25, 1862. He attended the University of Illinois and founded Bear's General Store (Ludlow, Ill.) in 1882. He later turned the business over to his two sons in 1918. He served as Champaign County treasurer for a number of years and was recognized as the dean of the Champaign County Republican Committee. He died on April 19, 1951.

The Ludlow Building and Loan Association was founded in April 1888 and operated until at least 1904. Louis N. Bear served as secretary from 1888 to at least 1901, and as treasurer in 1898, and possibly other years.

**Scope and Content:**

Contains six ledger books of Bear's General Store dating from 1893 to 1906. Also contains a book from the Ludlow Building and Loan Association containing minutes from 1888 to 1901, and financial statements dating from 1890 to 1904.

**Subjects:**

General stores

Savings and loan associations

**Names:**

Bear, Louis N.

Lou N. Bear General Store (Ludlow, Ill.)

**Container Listing:**

**Box 1**

Ledger: Minutes of the Ludlow Building and Loan Association: 1888-1901. Also includes some financial statements 1901-1904.

Ledger: Lou N. Bear General Store: December 26, 1893 – April 24, 1894

Ledger: Lou N. Bear General Store: July 16, 1894 – October 2, 1894  
Ledger: Lou N. Bear General Store: April 24, 1896 – October 28, 1896

**Box 2**

Ledger: Lou N. Bear General Store: February 23, 1899-June 12, 1899  
Ledger: Lou N. Bear General Store: November 6, 1900-June 1, 1901  
Ledger: Lou N. Bear General Store: September 19, 1903-April 21, 1905  
Ledger: Lou N. Bear General Store: April 22, 1905-December 28, 1906