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Cassady and Nelson Families Papers and Photographs 1759-1961 MSS 23

Title: Cassady and Nelson families papers and photographs

Creator: Cassady family and Nelson family

Inclusive Dates: 1759-1961

Extent: 0.5 cubic feet

Containers: 2 boxes and 1 folder

Language of Materials: English

Preferred Citation:

Cassady and Nelson Families Papers and Photographs Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries.

Biographical History:

The Cassady and Nelson families were the descendants of John Van Horn Cassady and Margaret Louise Nelson Cassady, prominent nineteenth-century Muncie residents. John Van Horne Cassady was born in Preble County, Ohio, and moved to Muncie with his parents as a boy. He served in the Civil War and then returned to operate the family drugstore. He also sold queensware, a hard, cream-colored earthenware perfected by Wedgwood, in the Muncie area until his death in 1885. In 1871, Cassady married Margaret Louise (called Louise) Nelson, whose parents (Robert and Sarah) had resided in Muncie since 1860. Mrs. Cassady, a prominent woman, was one of the organizers of the Woman's Club of Muncie, which was founded in 1876 and is still in existence.

The 1860 Delaware County census lists Nelson as Erastus [rather than Derastus] W. Nelson in the household of Daniel R. Youse, carriage maker. This is the D.R. Youse at whose house Nelson's funeral was held in 1865. The 1860 census lists Nelson as a 17-year-old apprentice to Youse (age 26). The rest of the Nelson family must have moved to Muncie soon after. They are listed in the 1870 census as: Robert (a saddle maker), age 76; Sarah, 59; Albert, 22; M. Lou (Margaret Louise who married J.V.H. Cassady in 1871), 19; Leonidas, 18; Lyman, 14; and Irenaus, 13. Louise Nelson is listed as a schoolteacher.

D.W. Nelson, then, was about 18 when he went to war in 1861 and about 22 when he was murdered. At the time of his death he was working as a traveling stencil engraver.

Scope and Contents:

The collection includes information and memorabilia of the Cassady and Nelson families. Included are correspondence, account books, programs, photographs, and obituaries of various family members from 1759 to 1961. Also included are the Civil War letters and diaries and other papers of D.W. (Derastus) Nelson, Louise Nelson's brother from 1858-1865.

Related Materials:

Materials relating to this collection may be found in the following collections in Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries, Muncie IN:

SC 67: Richey Family Collection
MSS 88: Woman's Club Records

Existence and Location of Copies:

Digital reproductions of the Derastus Nelson's correspondence and diaries, M. Louise Nelson's account book of household expenses, and *Life's Story, A: A story of the life and character of Lida A. Ryan* are available electronically through the Ball State University Libraries' Digital Media Repository at <http://libx.bsu.edu>.

Conditions Governing Access:

This collection is open for research.

Copyright Notice:

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Ball State University, Muncie, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Archives and Special Collections.

Custodial History:

This collection was received by Archives and Special Collections as a donation from Mary Louise (Janney) Rowlette in the early 1990s.

Accruals: Additions are not expected.

Processing Information:

Processing completed 1990/12 by K. Ball.
Finding aid revision completed 2006/03 by Jane E. Gastineau.
Finding aid revision completed 2008/01 by Maren L. Read.
Finding aid revision completed 2009/07/01 by Rachel N. Miller.
EAD finding aid completed 2009/07/30 by Maren L. Read.

Arrangement:

Cassady-Nelson Family papers are organized in the following series:
Series I: Cassady Family Papers, 1843-1961

Series II: Derastus W. Nelson Papers, 1858-1865
Series: III: Related Documents, 1867-1902
Series IV: Artifacts, 1887-1899
Series V: Photographs (PSC 75), 1860-1898

Controlled Access Headings:

Delaware County (Ind.)
Stoeckel Archives of Local History
Cassady Family
Nelson Family
Woman's Club of Muncie (Ind.)
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865
Fugitive slaves
Correspondence
Diaries
Souvenirs (Keepsakes)
Photographs

Collection Inventory:

Series I: Cassady Family Papers, 1843-1961

- | Box | Contents |
|-----|---|
| 1 | Arthur B. Cassady Correspondence, 1947-1961
John Van Horne Correspondence, 1861-1865
M. Louise Nelson, Account book of household expenses, 1887-1890
Card, clipping and stock certificate, 1861-1936
"Looking Backward Fifty Years," Woman's Club Speech, 1926
Concert Programs, 1896
Civil War documents, 1861-1862
Janney, Vida (Cassady), Wedding notices and other personal documents, 1843-1960 |

Series II: Derastus W. Nelson papers, 1858-1865

- | Box | Contents |
|-----|--|
| 1 | Advertisements and receipts, 1864-1865
Correspondence, 1861-1865
Death and funeral notices, 1865 Nov.
Diary, 1861-1862
1864
Discharge, 1864 [of Robert C. Nelson; all other information indicates D.W. Nelson]
Reading List, 1858-1859 |

Series: III: Related Documents, 1867-1902

- | Box | Contents |
|-----|---|
| 1 | Obituaries and funeral notices, circa 1871-1902, undated
W. Cassady and Son, Stock Certificates, 1867
Runaway Slave Advertisement, 1759/09/12 |

Series IV: Artifacts, 1887-1899

- | Box | Contents |
|-----|---|
| 2 | Elks Carnival official badge, 1899
MSPOA badge, 1882
Arthur B. Cassady Times Carrier badge, 1887
Metal corkscrew owned by Will Cassady, undated
Beaded snood, undated |

Series V: Photographs (PSC 75), 1860-1898

- | Folder | Contents |
|--------|--|
| 1 | Photograph of J.V.H. Cassady, circa 1860s
Thirteen photographs of Mrs. J.V.H. Cassady (M. Louise Nelson), 1860-1898 |

Three photographs of Vida Cassady, circa 1890s
Two photographs of William and Elisa Cassady, circa 1860s
Photographs of Derastus W Nelson, circa 1860