

Cassady and Nelson families papers and photographs

MSS.023

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September 10, 2012

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Ball State University Archives and Special Collections
Alexander M. Bracken Library
2000 W. University Avenue
Muncie, Indiana, 47306
765-285-5078
libarchives@bsu.edu

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Summary Information

Repository	Ball State University Archives and Special Collections
Creator	Cassady family
Creator	Nelson family
Creator	Nelson, Derastus W.
Title	Cassady and Nelson families papers and photographs
Date	1759-1961
Extent	0.5 Cubic feet 1 box and 1 folder
Language	English

Preferred Citation

Cassady and Nelson families papers and photographs, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries

Biographical Note

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.

Arrangement

Arranged in the following series:

Series 1: Cassady family papers, 1843-1961

Series 2: Derastus W. Nelson papers, 1859-1865

Series 3: Cassady and Nelson families subject files, 1759-1902

Series 4: Cassady and Nelson families artifacts, 1882-1889; undated

Series 5: Cassady and Nelson families photographs, 1860-1898

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Ball State University Archives and Special Collections

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

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Custodial History

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

Accruals

No further additions are 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 2012/09/10 by Bethany Fiechter.

Existence and Location of Copies

Digital reproductions of Derastus W. Nelson's papers are available electronically in the Ball State University Digital Media Repository: <http://libx.bsu.edu/>.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Woman's Club of Muncie. ((Muncie, Ind.))

Genre(s)

- Correspondence
- Diaries
- Photographs

Geographic Name(s)

- Delaware County (Ind.)

Subject(s)

- Family
- Family--History
- Fugitive slaves
- Stoeckel Archives of Local History
- United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

Series 1: Cassady family papers, 1843-1961**Collection Inventory**

Series 1: Cassady family papers, 1843-1961		
	Box	Folder
Cassady, Arthur B. correspondence, 1947-1961	1	1
Van Horne, John correspondence, 1861-1865	1	2
Nelson, M. Louise account book of household expenses, 1887-1890	1	3
Clipping and stock certificate, 1861-1936	1	4
“Looking Backward Fifty Years,” Woman's Club speech, 1926	1	5
Concert programs, 1896	1	6
Civil War documents, 1861-1862	1	7
Janney, Vida (Cassady) wedding notices and other personal documents, 1843-1960	1	8
Series 2: Derastus W. Nelson papers, 1859-1865		
	Box	Folder

Series 3: Cassady and Nelson families subject files, 1759-1902

Advertisements and receipts, 1858-1865	1	9
Correspondence, 1861-1865	1	10
Death and funeral notices, 1865 Nov.	1	11
Diary, 1861-1862	1	12
Diary, 1864	1	13
Nelson, Robert C. (information indicates Nelson, D. W.) discharge records, 1864	1	14
Reading list, 1858-1859	1	15

Series 3: Cassady and Nelson families subject files, 1759-1902

	Box	Folder
Obituaries and funeral notices, 1871-1902	1	16
W. Cassady and Son stock certificates, 1867	1	17
Runaway slave advertisement, 1759/09/12	1	18

Series 4: Cassady and Nelson families artifacts, 1882-1889; undated

	Box	Object
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Series 5: Cassady and Nelson families photographs, circa 1860-1893

Elks Carnival official badge, 1899	1	1
MSPOA badge, 1882	1	2
Cassady, Arthur B. times carrier badge, 1887	1	3
Cassady, Will metal corkscrew, undated	1	4
Beaded snood, undated	1	5
PSC.075 Series 5: Cassady and Nelson families photographs, circa 1860-1893		