



Busey Family
Papers, 1856-1970

Collection 16

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Laura Mondt and Youngmie Han, 2010

Creator/Corporate name: Busey family

Inclusive Dates: 1856-1970, bulk 1900-1930

Physical Description: 4 boxes (2.6 linear ft.)

Language: English

Provenance:

The Busey Family Papers were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives.

Access:

These records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

Biographical Note:

The Busey family is one of the founding families of Urbana. Various family members have played a large role in the community over the years. This collection focuses largely on brothers Samuel T. Busey and Simeon H. Busey and their descendants. Additionally, the collection contains a few manuscripts from distant Busey relatives.

The chart below will help explain how the Buseys represented in the collection are related to one another. This is by no means a comprehensive history and is solely intended to display relationships among those who are featured in the collection.

Simeon H. Busey (1824-1901) and married Artemesia Jones (1826-1914)

Son: Matthew W. Busey (1854-1932) and wife, Katherine Richards (1857-1918)

Son: George W. Busey (1861-1944) married Kate Baker (1860-1934)

Daughter: Garreta Busey (1893-1976)

Daughter: Margaret Jean Busey Yntema (1898-2002)

Son: William H. Busey (1865-1905) married Myra Burt (1872-1972)

After William's death, Myra remarried Dr. Frederic A. Besley (1868-1944). She remained part of the Busey family and was especially close to Garreta Busey.

Granddaughter: Josephine K. Busey (1893-1975), daughter of James Buchanan Busey I (1856-1935), married Marion Ashton Smith (1897-1975)

Grandson: Simeon Harrison Busey, Sr (1885-1961), son of James Buchanan Busey I

Samuel T. Busey (1835-1909) married Mary Bowen (1854-1930)

Daughter: Marietta Ruth (1878-1949)

Daughter: Bertha Lucendia (1880-1923)

Son: Charles Bowen (1887-1918)



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Other Busey family members

Isaac Busey (1849-1903)

Mrs. Elizabeth Busey (Note: There is not sufficient evidence to determine which Elizabeth Busey this is. She could be the sister of Simeon and Samuel.)

John W. Busey (Note: There is not enough evidence to determine which John W. this is, but he is likely to be John Wheeler Busey (1849-1927), who was the eldest son of Simeon.)

Scope and Content:

This collection contains papers authored or received by members of the Busey family. Contents include letters, diaries, travelogues, financial information, newspaper articles, and memorabilia. Most of the materials were created from about 1900 to 1930, although there are items that date back as far as 1856 and as recently as 1970. Given the wide variety of formats, all types of information are contained within the materials. There is information on everyday life, honors and awards, and business practices.

Name Terms:

Busey family
Busey, Samuel T.
Busey, Simeon H.
Jones, Artemesia
Busey, Artemesia
Besley, Myra
Busey, Myra
Besley, Frederic
Busey, Matthew W.
Busey, George W.
Busey, Josephine

Arrangement:

This collection is arranged into three series by family grouping. All materials that belonged to an individual were kept together and arranged by category in alphabetical order.

Series 1: Miscellaneous materials:

Contains miscellaneous Busey materials that were not a part of a family unit or encompassed several family units.

Series 2: Simeon H. Busey and his descendants:

Contains the materials of the descendants of Simeon H. Busey and his wife. Includes correspondence and notes written throughout the course of Josephine K. Busey's genealogical research. Also included are materials pertaining to Josephine's maternal McIntyre/McIntire line and materials of her paternal Busey line.

Series 3: Samuel T. Busey and his descendants:

Contains the materials of Samuel T. Busey, his wife and descendants. Folder 9, box 3 contains a travelogue diary of a daughter of Samuel T. Busey in which the author refers to excursions with "father, mother, sister and [Charles] Bowen." While it is clear that the author is a daughter of Samuel, she never mentions her sister by name so it is unclear which of the two wrote the diary.



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Container Listing:

Box 1

Series 1: Miscellaneous Materials

Folder 1: Busey Bros. and Co., Mississippi finances, circa 1910-1930

Folder 2: Article: "Busey Mansion," in *Champaign County Board of Realtors Multiple Listing Service*, January 22, 1973

Folder 3: Miscellaneous records

Folder 4: Diary circa 1856, author unknown

Folder 5: Samuel Busey—military discharge, 1807

Folder 6: Letter to Elizabeth Busey, 1880

Folder 7: Isaac C. Busey—property tax receipt, 1901

Series 2: Simeon H. Busey and His Descendants

Folder 8: Artemesia Jones Busey—two diaries, circa 1910-1914

Folder 9: William H. Busey—1917 will (copy)

Folder 10: Myra Besley—correspondence to acquaintances, 1908-1940s

Folder 11: Myra Besley—correspondence to Frederic Besley, 1908

Folder 12: Myra Besley—correspondence to Garreta Besley, circa 1920s-1960s

Folder 13: Myra Besley—correspondence from George W. Busey/Busey Bank, 1928-1929

Folder 14: Myra Besley—correspondence from Aunt Mag Morris, 1917-1918

Folder 15: Myra Besley—correspondence with Willmyra Plantation, 1928

Folder 16: Myra Besley—letters of condolence upon death of Frederic Besley (1944)

Folder 17: Myra Besley—travel diary to Europe, 1907-1908

Folder 18: Myra Besley—finances with Busey's State Bank, 1915-1919

Folder 19: Myra Besley—finances with Busey Bank account, 1911-1917

Folder 20: Myra Besley—finances with Busey Bros. and Co., 1916

Folder 21: Myra Besley—finances of Matthew Busey/Busey Bank, 1909-1927

Folder 22: Myra Besley—Miscellaneous finances, 1907-1932

Box 2

Series 2: Simeon H. Busey and His Descendants, cont.

Folder 1: Myra Besley—real estate finances, 1917-1925

Folder 2: Myra Besley—taxes, 1918

Folder 3: Frederic Besley—correspondence to Myra Besley, 1917-1918

Folder 4: Frederic Besley—correspondence to Garreta Busey, 1917

Folder 5: Frederic Besley—correspondence to George Busey, 1917

Folder 6: Frederic Besley—personal artifacts, circa late 1890s-early 1900s

Folder 7: Frederic Besley—professional associations records, circa early 1900s

Folder 8: Matthew W. Busey—correspondence, circa 1840s. Includes transcripts.

Folder 9: George W. Busey—school board ballots, 1911

Folder 10: Josephine Busey—correspondence and notes regarding maternal lineage, 1919-1966

Folder 11: Josephine Busey—correspondence and notes regarding paternal lineage, 1919-1970

Series 3: Samuel T. Busey and His Descendants

Folder 12: Samuel T. Busey—tributes upon death, 1909



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- Folder 13: Samuel T. Busey—telegrams of congratulations from congressional race, 1890
- Folder 14: Samuel T. Busey—letters received during Civil War, 1863
- Folder 15: Samuel T. Busey—letters written by him during Civil War, 1862-1865.
- Folder 16: Samuel T. Busey—official election correspondence from congressional election, 1890
- Folder 17: Samuel T. Busey—newspaper articles regarding congressional election, 1890
- Folder 18: Samuel T. Busey—letters of congratulations received after 1890 congressional victory, A-B
- Folder 19: Samuel T. Busey—letters of congratulations received after 1890 congressional victory, C-D
- Folder 20: Samuel T. Busey—letters of congratulations received after 1890 congressional victory, E-H
- Folder 21: Samuel T. Busey—letters of congratulations received after 1890 congressional victory, I-K
- Folder 22: Samuel T. Busey—letters of congratulations received after 1890 congressional victory, M-P

Box 3:

Series 3: Samuel T. Busey and His Descendants, cont.

- Folder 1: Samuel T. Busey—letters of congratulations received after 1890 congressional victory, Q-T
- Folder 2: Samuel T. Busey—letters of congratulations received after 1890 congressional victory, U-Z
- Folder 3: Samuel T. Busey—empty envelopes, various dates
- Folder 4: Samuel T. Busey—Miscellaneous records
- Folder 5: Samuel T. Busey—Miscellaneous correspondence, 1862-1903
- Folder 6: Samuel T. Busey—Miscellaneous receipts and finances, 1859-1909
- Folder 7: Samuel T. Busey—military record, circa 1900-1912
- Folder 8: Bertha Busey—diary, 1906-1910
- Folder 9: Daughter of Samuel T. Busey—travelogue diary, 1900
- Folder 10: Marietta and Bertha Busey—letter to Mrs. Nat Bowen, 1883
- Folder 11: Marietta Busey Tawney—letter from Warren G. Harding, 1919

Series 2: Simeon H. Busey and His Descendants, cont. (Oversized Materials)

- Folder 12: Ledger used by John W. Busey, 1864, and Simeon H. Busey, circa 1870s-1901
- Folder 13: Myra Besley diary, 1917-1926

Box 4:

Series 2: Simeon H. Busey and His Descendants, cont. (Oversized Materials)

- Scrapbook: Garreta Busey, circa 1907-1910
- Ledger: Garreta Busey, 1933-1939 (matched through handwriting samples)
- Ledger: Garreta Busey, 1952-1959
- Ledger: Garreta Busey, 1958-1968
- Ledger: Garreta Busey, 1968-1976
- Ledger: Jean Busey Yntema, 1922-1931

Series 3: Samuel T. Busey and His Descendants, cont. (Oversized Materials)

- Ledger: Samuel T. Busey- Busey and McClellin Daybook, 1857-1858