



Champaign County Diaries
Collection, 1857-1958

Collection 57

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Donica Martin

Creator/Corporate Name: Various creators (compiled by Champaign County Historical Archives)

Inclusive Dates: 1857-1958

Physical Description: 3 boxes (1.5 linear ft.)

Language: English

Provenance:

The Champaign County Diaries Collection materials 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.

Scope and Content Note:

The diaries in this collection were written by Champaign County residents and range in date from 1857-1958. The content includes notes on weather conditions, business transactions, travel notes, and records of daily activities. In addition to the physical Champaign County Diaries collection, diaries from various special collections ranging from 1882-1998 are noted following the arrangement listing. This collection consists of twenty-seven diaries written by thirteen individuals. Other notable diaries consist of fifty-four diaries written by nine individuals. Each diarist lived in Champaign County. The diaries have been selected from a number of special collections located at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

Biographical Notes:

Samuel Mandeville, 1857-1858: Samuel Mandeville was a longtime resident of Champaign County. Born in Cayuga County, New York in 1839, Mandeville came to Champaign in 1857. He lived on a farmstead one mile east of Sidney for forty five years. Mandeville married Mary A. Coffeen (1846-1884), daughter of Homer pioneer Michael Coffeen (1813-1882), and the couple had seven children. Mandeville died July 20, 1921 at his home. He was 82 years old.

Mandeville's diary covers the years 1857-1858. The diary begins as Mandeville sets out for the "great west" aboard a train in his home state of New York. The first pages describe his journey to Champaign and his settlement into the community as a farmer. The remainder of the diary contains lists of correspondences received and sent, transcriptions of correspondences, weather conditions, daily activities, and descriptions of visitors to his farmstead.



Champaign County Diaries
Collection, 1857-1958

Collection 57

Unknown Author, 1862: This 1862 military diary was written by an unknown author. Entries are sporadic and vary in length. A few entries describe daily events, while others list several names with no other identifiable information. Many entries are not dated.

Arthur O. Howell, 1863-1880: Howell was born in Ohio in 1819, and moved to a farm in northwest Urbana in 1853. The following year, he organized a congregational Sunday school which grew to become the present-day United Church of Christ (now at Daniel and Sixth Street in Champaign). After enlisting for military service on August 21, 1862, Howell served in Company G, 72nd Illinois Infantry. His diary includes entries from May to July 1863, detailing his involvement in General Ulysses S. Grant's Vicksburg campaign, and the Confederate surrender of the city on July 4, 1863. Howell's diary also includes details about Gen. John C. Pemberton's request for a truce on July 3, the surrender itself, and the parole of prisoners on July 5. In November 1863, Howell was appointed superintendent at the Natchez Freedman's Camp. The following March, he was promoted to Captain of Company H, 64th U.S. Colored Infantry, where he served until his discharge on August 4, 1865. Upon returning to Illinois after the war, Howell operated a sawmill at his farm. In the 1870s, he began a successful tile company, and pioneered the use of "prairie clay" to make tiles. Howell died January 8, 1900 at the age of 80 after a lengthy illness. He is buried in Mount Hope Cemetery.

Caroline D. Markle Davis, 1864-1867: Caroline D. "Carrie" Markle was born in Jackson County, Michigan in 1841. Her parents were John Jakob (1803-1878) and Dorothea Allmendinger Markle (1801-1870) of Germany. After receiving her education at Albion and Ann Arbor, Michigan, Markle relocated to Philo, Illinois to pursue a career in teaching. In December 1867, Carrie Markle was married to Edward Davis (1831-1899), who was originally from Wales. Davis continued her teaching career in Philo and instructed many prominent members of the community. Carrie and Edward Davis parented six children.

Four diaries written by Carrie Markle Davis are included in this collection. She made consistent, daily entries. Her writing covers daily activities, meetings, and visits with friends. Many pages end with an inspirational quote, oftentimes a biblical quote. The 1864 diary covers her time in Ann Arbor training to become a primary school teacher. In January 1865, Markle notes her relocation from Waterloo, Michigan to Philo, Illinois. Her 1866 and 1867 diaries describe her days teaching primary school in Philo. She begins most entries with the number of scholars in attendance and whether or not the day was pleasant. She also notes visitors to her classroom including "Davis," who became her husband in December 1867.

Louisa Pierce, 1875: Louisa Margaret Pierce was born December 1859 in Tolono, Illinois to James (1824-1908) and Louise Schmidt Pierce (1829-1900). She and her family were early pioneers of Champaign County. Pierce worked at both Eisner Grocery and Robeson's Department Store in Champaign. She also worked as an artist. Pierce died on July 31, 1940 at the age of 80.

Pierce's high school diary entries occur almost daily and describe typical daily events: what the family did that day, with whom they visited, weather conditions, activities at school and church, and her studying habits in high school. The diary includes a copy of a calling card for "Mrs. James Pierce," Louisa's mother.



Champaign County Diaries
Collection, 1857-1958

Collection 57

Peter Mogensen, 1875-1950: Peter Mogensen, son of Niels and Margareth Olsen Mogensen, was born December 11, 1860 in Roskilde, Denmark. From 1875-1880 he served as apprentice to a machinist in Copenhagen, Denmark. After his apprenticeship, Mogensen worked in German and Scottish shipyards for three years. From 1883-1891 he lived and worked in Buenos Aires, Argentina building railroads and also working for Buenos Aires water works. In 1891 he moved to Champaign and attended the University of Illinois. He graduated with a degree in civil engineering in 1894 and moved to Seattle, Washington with his wife, Elizabeth Jane Davis (1869-1965) of Urbana. Throughout the remainder of his career as a civil engineer, Mogensen traveled extensively across North America for business building bridges, railroads, hydro-electric power plants, mills, and smelters. Peter Mogensen died on October 22, 1950 at the age of 89.

Mogensen's diary begins in 1875 during his apprenticeship in Copenhagen, Denmark. Entries are sporadic and describe his work as a smith, machinist, and civil engineer, his retirement, and later his ailing health.

Lemira H. Howell, 1877-1880: Lemira H. Howell was the daughter of Civil War veteran Arthur H. Howell. This diary covers her daily life over a three year period with daily entries.

May Lindley Nelson, 1877-1909: Anna May Lindley was born in 1870 to James Wolfe (1823-1899) and Sarah A. Watson Lindley (1838-1926), who were early pioneers of the Philo Township. She married Urbana jeweler John R. Nelson in 1890 and the two resided in Urbana until 1920 when they moved to Hollywood, California. The Nelsons had three children: Roselyn, Marguerite, and Orville. Nelson died December 6, 1931 in Hollywood, California at the age of 60 after a battle with stomach cancer.

May Lindley Nelson's diary begins in her early teen years with entries related to school, social activities, and numerous callers. Later, she describes her studies at the University of Illinois including her membership in theater clubs, entries into art shows, and her participation in University of Illinois social events such as the Spring Formal and the Library School's dance.

Julia F. Burnham, 1878-1882: Julia Finley Davison was born in New York City on April 16, 1839, the youngest of John R. Davison and Mary Finley's sixteen children. She spent her childhood in New York and New Jersey before meeting her husband, Albert C. Burnham and moving to Champaign, Illinois in 1866. Julia F. Burnham was well known in Champaign-Urbana for her humanitarian work and served as the Secretary of the State Board of Charities. Burnham dedicated her time to charity work for the church and focused on caring for the sick and poor. Her interest in advancing education led to her appointment as one of the first women in Illinois to serve on the Public School Board. After her death in 1894, commemoration of her work was realized in the foundation of the Julia F. Burnham hospital, the grounds for which were donated by A.C. Burnham, who endowed the hospital during his lifetime.

The Archives holds a diary written by Julia Burnham in 1878 and 1882. Side one of the journal begins in February 1878 and documents a trip Burnham took from Illinois to Florida with descriptions of



Champaign County Diaries
Collection, 1857-1958

Collection 57

landscape, lodgings, and tourist destinations along the way. Side two details a trip to Europe spanning several months and including stops in the England, France, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Scotland.

Unknown Author, ca. 1900: An apothecary's journal with no name or date is located in the diaries collection. The journal contains a table of contents listing recipes by both ailment and cure. Though the journal is undated, it contains a newspaper clipping that mentions dentist C.E. Klopp. A dentist by the name of C.E. Klopp is listed in the Annual Report of the Illinois State Board of Dental Examiners, December 15, 1898 and was practicing in Naperville, Illinois at the time. Another clipping notes a case study that was documented in 1894.

Lillie Partlow Sale, 1903-1907: Lillie Belle Partlow was born on a farm near Potomac, Illinois in 1858. In 1881 she married Dr. Frank Orville Sale (ca. 1857-1941), who was a dentist living in Rantoul, Illinois. After a brief move to the Dakotas, the Sale family settled in Urbana, Illinois in 1895. The Sales were prominent members of the Urbana community. Sale was an attendance officer of the Urbana School District for 27 years and she actively participated in charitable activities of the Methodist church. Dr. F.O. Sale opened his own office and continued to practice dentistry in Urbana for thirty-five years. F.O. and Lillie Sale were the parents of comedian-actor Charles "Chic" Sale and actress-author Virginia Sale Wren. Sale died on August 29, 1940 at the age of 82.

The Champaign County Historical Archives houses seven of Lillie Sale's diaries dating from 1903-1907. Her 1903 diary begins on New Year's Day with a resolution to record daily entries in a diary. Subsequent entries record daily activities such as cooking and cleaning, trips to visit friends and family, church activities, and Dr. Sale's business activities.

A transcription of the diaries authored by Dorothea Woodward (granddaughter of F.O. and Lillie Sale) is located in the archives open stacks. The transcription consists of over four hundred pages. The book also contains Sale family charts and an index.

Audie Virgil Wilborn, 1917-1919: Audie Virgil Wilborn was born at Mount Hermon, Monroe County, Kentucky on June 4, 1895 to Daniel and Lelah Wilborn. He enlisted as a private in the U.S. Army National Guard's Fourth Infantry, Company M in Champaign, Illinois in July 1917. During World War I, Wilborn became a Corporal in the 130th Infantry, 33rd Division of the U.S. Army National Guard while serving in France. In 1922, Wilborne married Letha Snyder (1890-1974) at Danville, Illinois and the couple had one daughter. He married for a second time to Mary L. English (1905-1976), who was employed by Robeson's Department Store for over 20 years.

In addition to his military service, Wilborn was employed by Ford Motor Co. in Detroit, Michigan for 18 years. He retired to Arcola, Illinois in 1960 with his wife, Mary. He was the first commander of the Busey-Fletcher-Stillwell VFW post in Champaign and was a member of both the Masonic lodge and the Detroit Consistory. Corporal Wilborne died March 31, 1965 at his home in Arcola. He was 69 years old.

In his World War I diary, Wilborn describes enlisting for service in "the World's War," and his first weeks of training in New Orleans, Louisiana. After a lengthier introduction, the diary consists of daily entries,



Champaign County Diaries
Collection, 1857-1958

Collection 57

mostly one sentence, describing daily training and identifying new locations as the company traveled. Also included are four poems written by Wilborne during his service, their titles are, "Illinois Waiting Till Her Prairie Boys Come Home," "The U.S. Rough Necks," "Your Answer," and "The Dying Yank."

Thusenelda Gross Martin, 1909-1935: Thusenelda Gross was born June 16, 1896 in Lee, Illinois. Her parents were Reverend William Gross (1848-1937) of Germany and Charlotte Conrad Gross (1856-1907). In 1948 she married Elmer Martin (1894-1990) of Urbana. Martin was a University of Illinois graduate. She was a science teacher at Urbana High School for twenty seven years and taught at many Champaign County schools throughout her teaching career.

The first of Martin's diaries dates from her teenage years and she called the diary, "Essays of the adventures of Thusenelda Gross." In the diary she provides dramatic retellings of "adventures" such as a ski trip, travels to nearby towns, and visits from friends. The diary also includes original poetry and short fiction. The second diary (1933-1935) was written after her marriage to Elmer Martin. In it, Thusenelda Martin describes her work as a teacher and time spent with family members.

Thomas Henry Trevett, 1922-1924: Thomas Howard Trevett was a lifelong resident of Champaign County. He was born in October 1857 at what was referred to as the "Trevett homestead," located on the corner of Prospect and University Avenues in Champaign. Trevett owned a hardware store in Champaign and was a prominent businessman for over 35 years. He also served several terms as an alderman in Champaign. He died suddenly at the age of 69 at his home in Champaign leaving his wife, Mary, and daughter, Alma.

In his travel diaries, Trevett documents his journey "around the world" beginning in New York City, December 1922. The first diary documents his travels to South America including extended stays in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Chile and Bolivia. The first diary ends in March of 1923 with Trevett and his family returning to the United States via ship at port in New Orleans.

The second diary begins in January 1924 in Chicago and documents Trevett's travels to U.S. cities in Washington and Montana, as well as travels to India, Singapore, Malaysia, Egypt and Jerusalem. The second diary ends in April 1924.

Trevett's third travel diary has fewer entries than the earlier diaries. It begins in April 1924 in Naples, Italy at the Grand Hotel. He also mentions visiting the Italian cities of Rome and Venice before moving on to Switzerland, France and England.

Mabel R. Hull, 1923-1925: Mabel Ruth Hull attended the University of Illinois, graduating in June 1924. Following her graduation, she taught at Homer High School, near Urbana.

Hull's diary covers the dates of Jan. 1, 1923-Dec. 31, 1925. The diary details her daily life as a university student (until her graduation in 1924) and then her life as a teacher at Homer High School. In addition to



Champaign County Diaries
Collection, 1857-1958

Collection 57

details of her daily life and social events, Hull also notes some events of broader interest, including the successes of Red Grange and the University of Illinois football team.

Wellington Reid Townley, 1929: Wellington Reid Townley (1861-1941) was born in Ontario, Canada and immigrated to the United States in 1881. He was the father of Enid Townley (1900-1983) who worked as the assistant to the chief of the State of Illinois Geological Survey for 38 years.

Townley's diary is titled "Notes made on a trip from Chicago to Europe beginning June 28, 1929." The diary consists of daily entries made while staying in Chicago, Toronto, Quebec, London, and Paris. Townley also spent a great deal of time in the English countryside touring old homes, castles, and English universities. This travel diary also provides details about daily activities, sightseeing, and shows.

Izeyl Marie Brown French, 1932: Izeyl Marie Brown (1914-1994) was born to Herbert Spencer (1887-1946) and Lela Igo Brown (1886-1982) on December 29, 1914. She attended the University of Illinois 1934-1935 and earned a degree in accounting. She married Adam French (1914-1990) in 1944 and had no children.

The diary begins during the second half of Ms. Brown's junior year of high school. Brown made daily entries that describe day trips with her family, activities at school, and sporting events. Her writing is candid and, at times, playful.

Rex L. Brown, 1933: Rex L. Brown (1897-1955), son of Robert and Lizzie Branaman Brown, was born January 19, 1897 in Kingman, Kansas. Brown was an Assistant Professor of theoretical and applied mechanics at the University of Illinois. His 1933 diary contains a variety of information including traveling habits, Board and Department meetings at the University of Illinois, birthdays and death dates of friends.

Jacqueline Lewis Reynolds Lincicome, 1934-1938: Jacqueline Jeanette Lewis was born on July 18, 1920 in Bloomington, Illinois to William H. and Yvette James Lewis. Jacqueline had one sister, Jean Lewis Lueth. Jacqueline married Thomas Joseph Reynolds (born April 8, 1918) on Sept. 27, 1939 in Urbana, Illinois.

Jacqueline and Thomas Reynolds had two children, as son, John. W. Reynolds and a daughter, Lynda L. Reynolds-Wirth. Jacqueline worked for many years as a bookkeeper at Sears and Massey-Ferguson. Her husband, Thomas Reynolds passed away on February 18, 1984.

Jacqueline Lewis-Reynolds met Richard A. Lincicome and married him on June 23, 1994 in Urbana, Illinois. Richard Lincicome soon passed away on July 27, 2001.

After retirement, Jacqueline volunteered at the St. Patrick's Parish Office. She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and the St. Patrick's Altar Guild. She enjoyed reading, crossword puzzles, listening to Big Band music and donating to various Indian missions.



Champaign County Diaries
Collection, 1857-1958

Collection 57

Jacqueline had five grandchildren: Marry Lynn Tomblin, Steven Wirth, Heidi Hardig, Eric Wirth, and Kristen Smith. She had seven great-grandchildren: Thomas Wirth, Staci Wirth, Rachael Wirth, Dustin Hardig, Cheyene Thomas, Nicholas Wirth, and Tierra Thomas. She also had two great-great-grandchildren: Alexis and Jordan Wirth.

Jacqueline Lewis Reynolds Lincicome is buried in Calvary Cemetery in Philo, Illinois.

Her journal was kept between January 1934 and December 1938. Thomas Joseph Reynolds is often listed as her escort beginning October 1937, before the two were married in 1939. Handwritten entries include a brief list of book titles, and an extensive list of movies seen in local theaters including the Orpheum, Park, Princess, Rialto, and Virginia. Each entry includes the name of the theater, the date visited, the name of her escort, the title of the film, and often the name of the film's lead actor or actress. The journal was donated by Reynolds' daughter, Lynda Reynolds Wirth in 2008.

Anna Etta Busey Cruser, 1941-1958: Anna Etta Busey (1878-1967) was born in Sidney, Illinois March 15, 1878. Her parents were Matthew C. (1850-1930) and Arthena Busey (1859-1935) and she was the great-granddaughter of Champaign County pioneer Matthew Eldridge Busey (1779-1864). Etta Busey married Herman Deed Cruser (1868-1941) in 1900. The couple lived in Somer Township until 1941 when they relocated to Champaign. Anna and Herman Cruser had no children, but had many nieces and nephews.

Entries in Anna Cruser's diaries provide a record of daily activities including visits from family and friends and weather conditions. Cruser also notes major world events, such as the beginning of World War II. Cruser includes transcribed copies of letters--both sent and received--verbatim. In the two later diaries, she provides detailed notes pertaining to real estate and farming including correspondences with renters and utility companies.

Notable Diaries in Various Collections (see page 12):

Collection 218—Herman E. Burchard:

Herman E. Burchard (1881-1954) was a Champaign merchant and machinist. He was born April 6, 1881 in Ivesdale, a son of Chrisitan (1840-1907) and Wilhemina Kummerow Burchard (1843-1917) of Germany. Burchard traveled to Mexico and South America as a "machine expert" from 1907-1913. Burchard married Louise Dummer (1890-1982) on October 6, 1911. The couple had two sons, both of whom died in infancy, and a daughter, Caroline Burchard Seymour (1921-2010).

Herman Burchard's May 1913 travel diary consists of seven typed pages recounting his experience "delivering agricultural machinery in Mexico." In this recount of his time in Mexico, Burchard recorded the details of delivering a Steam Case Traction Engine to the city of Aguascalientes, Mexico. He recalls an incident in which he was charged with protecting the engine from 35-40 bandits. He also describes traversing dangerous mountain trails and visiting a corral. Memories of his trip are further expanded upon in his undated memoirs.

Collection 16—Busey Family:



Champaign County Diaries
Collection, 1857-1958

Collection 57

Unknown author, ca. 1856: Entries relate to farming, horses, and business transactions with the Busey family, namely Simeon H. Busey.

Marietta Busey Tawney, 1900: Marietta Busey (1878-1950) was born November 23, 1878 in Urbana to Samuel Thompson (1835-1909) and Mary Elizabeth Bowen Busey (1854-1930). Marietta Busey received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Vassar College in 1899 and earned a Master's degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1912. She also attended the University of Illinois 1907-1909, the New York University School of Law (1905) and the New York University Silver School of Social Work (1906). She married Dr. Guy A. Tawney, University of Illinois professor of philosophy, in 1909. Dr. Tawney served as chairman of the Board of Directors for Busey First National Bank from 1933 until his death in 1947. Afterward, Marietta Tawney served as director of the board. Marietta Busey Tawney was an active member of the Urbana community and served as a civic leader in many capacities. She participated in dozens of associations and clubs, and served as a board of trustee member for both the Urbana Free Library and the First Presbyterian Church. She also served as president of the Woodlawn Cemetery Association and treasurer of the Citizen's Building Association.

This travel diary has been attributed to the daughter of Samuel T. Busey, most likely Marietta. Entries describe family activities and a trip to Italy. She provides summaries of information found in Italian museums and describes seeing the Pope at St. Peter's Basilica.

Bertha Busey, 1906-1919: Bertha Busey (1880-1923) was the youngest daughter of Samuel Thompson (1835-1909) and Mary Elizabeth Bowen Busey (1854-1930). She was born in Urbana on June 29, 1880. Busey attended Urbana High School and the University of Illinois. She died suddenly of pneumonia at the age of 43 while visiting her sister, Marietta Busey Tawney, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Bertha Busey's diary consists of sporadic entries concerning travels, daily activities, classes, church, and dinner parties. Of particular note are the entries made on August 12, 1909, "Papa and Annie McClain drowned," and August 16, 1909, "Papa and Annie McClain buried." These entries refer to the deaths of Samuel T. Busey and Annie McClain in Mantrap, Minnesota.

Myra E. Burt Busey Besley, 1907-1908: Myra E. Burt (1872-1972) was born in Coshocton, Ohio on May 19, 1872 to Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Burt. She became an orphan at a young age and was raised by Margaret Carle (1830-1918) on an Urbana farm that later became Carle Park. Burt attended the University of Illinois 1891-1893 and went on to the Cook County Hospital in Chicago to train as a nurse. She married William H. Busey (1865-1905) on January 19, 1899 at Orange, New York. William was a son of Simeon H. Busey (1824-1901). In 1910, she married Dr. Frederic A. Besley, founder of the Besley Clinic in Waukegan, Illinois. Myra Besley lived to be 99 years old.

In her 1907-1908 diary, Myra Busey documents her travels to Europe. The diary includes an itinerary with a list of the cities she visited in France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Turkey,



Champaign County Diaries
Collection, 1857-1958

Collection 57

Greece and Italy. The diary itself is a treasure with fabric binding embossed with a painting of a finely dressed woman holding a shade umbrella. The diary is complete with what could be the original pencil held by a loop of fabric on the diary's cover.

Myra Busey's 1917-1942 diary records her time in Washington, D.C. in 1917. Many other entries are also travel related. Several entries note funerals and burial information for friends and family members, many of them from Champaign County.

Artemesia Jones Busey, 1910-1914: Artemesia Jones (1826-1914) was born to John Wesley, of England, and Alice Scott Jones in Shelby County, Kentucky October 26, 1826. Soon after her birth, she and her parents relocated to Greencastle, Indiana. Jones married Simeon H. Busey (1824-1901) on September 22, 1848. Artemesia Busey then moved with her husband to Urbana, Illinois. The pioneer couple settled on a farmstead of 80 acres near what is now the University of Illinois campus. Her husband, Simeon Harrison Busey, was essential to the establishment Urbana. He was an investor and co-founder of both the First National Bank of Champaign and Busey Bank of Urbana. Though Simeon Busey was skilled at managing finances, he enjoyed farm life and spent most of his time devoted to farming efforts and livestock raising. Busey was also active in securing the location of the University of Illinois. In the meantime, Artemesia Busey kept house and raised eight children to adulthood. In her later years, she became the grandmother of twenty-nine and the great-grandmother of eleven. She remained surrounded by family throughout her life and enjoyed hosting family gatherings at her home.

Busey was a busy woman and an active member of the community. Her diary consists of frequent daily entries that describe visits from friends and family, callers to her home, weather conditions, household chores, and the places she visited (church, family members' homes, community events, etc.) This diary was written at the end of her life when most of her focus was on giving back to the community and spending time with family.

Collection 111--Nelson Family:

Charles Nelson diaries: The Nelson family diaries were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives by the Champaign Public Library. One diary belongs to Charles J. Nelson spanning 1882-1892 and is written in Swedish. Charles was the father of Benjamin J. Nelson.

Benjamin Nelson diaries: Benjamin Nelson (1888-1980) was the son of Charles J. and Ida Nelson. In 1911 Benjamin Nelson graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in mechanical engineering. During World War I Nelson served in the American Expeditionary Forces in France from 1917-1918. After returning to the United States, Nelson married Marjorie Spalding (1894-1976) in Champaign on May 29, 1920. Nelson worked as an engineer in Chicago and New York until he returned to Champaign in 1939. He was an executive vice president of First Federal Savings and Loan where he worked from 1939-1956. He was also a member of the



Champaign County Diaries
Collection, 1857-1958

Collection 57

board of directors from 1945-1975, at which time he became a director emeritus. He died September 25, 1980, at Mercy Hospital at the age of 92.

The Nelson diaries are meticulously detailed and include pictures of persons and places mentioned in the almost daily entries. Nelson also provided sketches of places he visited. The diaries cover nearly 60 years of Nelson's lifetime. The last entry is dated August 30, 1980, three weeks before Nelson's death.

Collection 8—Nina Rubel:

The Champaign County Historical Archives holds a special collection dedicated to author and journalist Nina Rubel. Nina Rubel was born to Holger and Margrethe Marcus in Horsens, Denmark on October 21, 1932. After the Nazi occupation of Denmark in 1940 during the Second World War, the Marcuses were forced to flee to Sweden after the Nazis began mass arrests of Jews in 1943. Upon her return to Denmark after the war, Rubel took an apprenticeship in journalism at the age of fifteen, and writing would remain a lifelong passion. At 19 Rubel first came to the United States, writing about her experiences in Danish newspapers.*

The special collection of Nina Rubel's records includes a "Diaries and Journals" series. Within this series are nine folders of daily "Lists." These lists cover Rubel's daily life in meticulous detail. Her travel diaries detail her international travels to France and Italy. She kept daily records of her travels, similar in style and content to her daily "lists."

* Biographical information obtained from the Nina Rubel collection finding aid.

Arrangement:

Diaries in this collection are arranged chronologically by earliest entry date. If an author has written more than one diary, the items have been placed together.

Subject Terms:

Diaries
Journals (Diaries)
Personal Journals

Names:

Besley, Myra E.
Brown, Izeyl Marie
Burchard, Herman E.
Burnham, Julia F.
Burt, Myra E.
Busey, Anna Etta
Busey, Artemesia



Champaign County Diaries
Collection, 1857-1958

Collection 57

Busey, Bertha
Busey, Marietta
Busey, Myra E.
Cruser, Anna Etta
Davis, Caroline D.
French, Izeyl Marie
Gross, Thusenelda
Jones, Artemesia
Lindley, Anna May
Mandeville, Samuel
Markle, Caroline D.
Martin, Thusenelda
Mogensen, Peter
Nelson, Anna May
Nelson, Benjamin
Nelson, Charles
Partlow, Lillie
Pierce, Louisa
Sale, Lillie
Rubel, Nina
Tawney, Marietta
Townley, Wellington Reid
Trevett, Thomas Henry
Wilborn, Audie Virgil

Container List

Box 1

Folder 1: Samuel Mandeville, 1857-1858
Folder 2: Unknown Author, 1862
Folder 3: Arthur O. Howell, 1863-1880
Folder 4: Carrie D. Markle Davis, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867
Folder 5: Louisa Pierce, 1875
Folder 6: Lemira H. Howell, 1877-1880
Folder 7: Peter Mogensen, 1875-1950
Folder 8: May Lindley Nelson, 1877-1909
Folder 9: Julia F. Burnham, 1878
Folder 10: Unknown author, apothecary journal, ca. 1898

Box 2

Folder 1: Lillie Partlow Sale, 1903 (Jan-Aug)
Folder 2: Lillie Partlow Sale, 1903 (Aug-Dec)
Folder 3: Lillie Partlow Sale, 1904 (Jan-Aug)



Champaign County Diaries
Collection, 1857-1958

Collection 57

- Folder 4: Lillie Partlow Sale, 1904-1905 (Aug-Jan)
- Folder 5: Lillie Partlow Sale, 1905 (Feb-Aug)
- Folder 6: Lillie Partlow Sale, 1906
- Folder 7: Lillie Partlow Sale, 1907
- Folder 8: Audie Wilborne, 1917-1919

Box 3

- Folder 1: Thusenelda Gross Martin, 1909-1919
- Folder 2: Thusenelda Gross Martin, 1933-1935
- Folder 3: Thomas Henry Trevett, 1922-1923, 1924
- Folder 4: Wellington Reid Townley, 1929
- Folder 5: Izeyl Marie Brown French, 1932
- Folder 6: Anna Etta Busey Crusser, 1941-1948

Box 4

- Folder 1: Anna Etta Busey Crusser, 1948-1952
- Folder 2: Anna Etta Busey Crusser, 1955-1958
- Folder 3: Anna Etta Busey Crusser clippings and ephemera, 1941-1958
- Folder 4: Rex L. Brown, 1933

Notable diaries in various collections:

Burchard family:

- Herman E. Burchard, 1913
- Herman E. Burchard, undated

Busey family:

- Unknown author, ca 1856
- Marietta Busey Tawney, 1900
- Bertha Busey, 1906-1910
- Myra E. Busey Besley, 1907-1908
- Artemesia Jones Busey, 1910-1912
- Artemesia Jones Busey, 1912-1914

Nelson family:

- Charles J. Nelson, 1882-1892
- Benjamin Nelson, 38 volumes, 1924-1980

Nina Rubel:

- Nina Rubel, 1991-1998
- Lists, 1991-2005 (9 folders containing lists)
- Travel Diary—France, n.d.
- Travel Diary—France, 1965
- Travel Diary—France, 1966



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Champaign County Diaries
Collection, 1857-1958

Collection 57

Travel Diary—France and Italy, 1980
Travel Diary—France, 1998