



Block Family
Collection, 1859-1993

Collection 280

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Tina Cowsert, November 2019

Creator/Corporate Name: Block Family

Inclusive Dates: 1859-1993

Physical Description: 4 boxes (3.5 linear ft.)

Language: English

Provenance:

The Block Family collection materials were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives by Donna Nichols in 1994. A second accession was donated by Nichols in 2016.

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:

August Emmanuel (Emanuel) Block was born on March 5, 1837 in Province Posen, Germany. He immigrated to the United States in 1855 and settled in Champaign, Illinois. On March 7, 1858, he was married to Charlotta Dorothea Klinger (often misspelled Klinder); they lived as farmers. August was one of the founders of the St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed Church in Champaign, now known as the United Church of Christ. He died on June 3, 1919 near Broadlands, Illinois.

Theodore Leopold Block was born October 3, 1850 in Poland to Mr. and Mrs. William Block. He and his parents came to the United States in 1857, settling near Sidney, Illinois. He became one of the most prosperous farmers in Champaign County, and when he retired from farming and later resided in Champaign, became one of the most extensive land owners in the county. He and his wife Mary, a native of Germany, were killed in June 1923 near Philo, when their automobile was struck by a train.

Everett C. Block was born April 27, 1923 in Champaign County to Hilbert A. and Ella Lehmkuhler Block. Everett married Sarah F. Turner on March 13, 1944, at Rome, GA. She died on December 1, 1997. Everett and Sarah Block had one son, Edwin Mull Block, two daughters, Donna Nichols and Kathie McGowan, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Everett was a member of the Sidney American Legion Post and the Knights of Pythias. He served in the U.S. Navy and retired from the University of Illinois as an animal caretaker in 1991. He died on December 13, 2000 in Urbana, Illinois.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains photographs, a photo identification book, genealogical materials, newspaper clippings, correspondence, and ephemera concerning the Block family. Materials date from 1859-1993.



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Arrangement:

This collection is arranged into three series: August E. Block & Theodore L. Block Materials; Block Family Reunion Materials; and Everett Block Family Home Movies.

Subject Terms:

Block family
Genealogy

Name Terms:

Block, August E.
Block, Everett C.
Block, Theodore L.

Box 1

Series 1: August E. Block & Theodore L. Block Materials

Folder 1: German Birth Certificate for Johanna Charlotte Klinger on October 13, 1825.
Folder 2: German Confirmation Certificate for August Emmanuel Block on August 17th, 1851.
Folder 3: Block Family Photo Identification Book, many photos identified, most undated.
Folder 4: The August E. Block Family and Descendants Family Tree Book, as of January 1, 1993.
Folder 5: Two bound groupings of Block Family Photographic negatives in sleeves, circa 1860s-1975.
Folder 6: Bible of Theodore L. Block, 1859.
Folder 7: Envelopes (3) containing photographs in sleeves, newspaper clippings, correspondence, funeral programs, and obituary transcripts pertaining to family members, 1878-1979.

Box 2

Series 1: August E. Block & Theodore L. Block Materials, cont.

Bound item: Book of Remembrance. Block family records, photocopies of photographs and family group sheets, circa 1970s-1980s.

Box 3

Series 2: Block Family Reunion Materials

Folder 1: Secretary Minute Book, June 9, 1946-June 19, 1966.
Folder 2: Secretary Minute Book, June 11, 1967-June 9, 1985.
Folder 3: Secretary Minute Book, June 8, 1986-June 13, 1999.
Folder 4: Secretary Minute Book: 1999-2015.
Folder 5: Reunion invitations from 2001-2013.
Binder: Black three-ring binder with photographs of various Block family gatherings, reunions, and special birthday celebrations. The photographs are dated from 1919 to 1996. The majority of the photographs are identified as to the date, names and location. A few of the images are Xerox copies of the photographs and there are also a couple of Xeroxed newspaper articles.



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Box 3

Series 3: Everett Block Family Home Movies

Note: The series contains 23-8mm movie film reels of home movies taken by the Everett Block family from 1853-1966. Reels 1-12 are housed in a wooden box and reels 13-23 are housed in a metal box. There is a note in each film canister with a list of what is included on the individual film. These movies appear to have been converted and condensed to three VHS tapes. A listing of those reel numbers, index of items and time stamp are included in the cover of each tape. [Note to Archives Staff: There is also a digital version of the movies that was downloaded to the Archives R drive that can be found under Videos.]

A green 4 x 7 1/2 inch notebook is included with the series. The notebook has an index to the items on each film and a general index by subject, date, and location.

Reel 1: Family Home movies, January-June 1953

1. Sally & kids arrived from town
2. February looking north at the farm
3. Clarence Davis farm sale –L. Cole, Auctioneer
4. Kids playing with Tissie
5. Puss McElwee & Herman Hulmes putting up TV antenna
6. Kids playing
7. Pinochle Party – Our house
8. Our kids & M. Gorman's kids
9. Kids (Donna, Kathie, & Edwin) saying their prayers
10. Kids (Donna, Kathie & Edwin) in kitchen coloring
11. Edwin showing his belly button
12. Ray Pribble's car's front end on the fence post at C & E railroad crossing
13. Easter (Carolin Toppe)
14. Making post holes
15. Dinner at Haas's--Easter—wash car
16. Tissie playing with cat
17. Loading and hauling manure—plowing

Reel 2: June-July 1953

1. Grandma Lehmkuhler's Funeral
2. Grandma L.'s house—Huntingburg, IN
3. 2nd house is Arnold Frick's
4. Next is Henry Prior's house
5. Lehmkuhler's old farmstead
6. Puppies at the farm
7. Barn & house on the Old Homestead
8. Lane to John Frick's Old Homestead
9. 1st house is Raymond Prior's house
10. Next one is Albert Prior's house



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11. Antique tractor—sawmill—powered by steam engine near Huntingburg, IN
12. Flock of sheep at dusk
13. Dinner at Edgar Schwartz
14. Scenery at Shades
15. Planting beans
16. Kids playing
17. Girls in dance costumes
18. Visiting Dad & Mom's, Ester & Roy were there too
19. Antique car parade & sports car race at Chanute Field

Reel 3: July-October 1953

1. Block reunion
2. Kids playing in water
3. Dinner at Estor's 7/53
4. Alta and Hellen with Linda
5. Alta & Estor [Block]
6. Donna, Kathie, Edwin, Brenda & Bill
7. Howard & Clay
8. Cleophia taking pictures
9. David, kids, & dog
10. David on steps
11. Howard [Block] listening to ballgame
12. David [Block] with JoAnne [Block]
13. Donna's birthday Aug. 2nd, 7 years old
14. Kids mowing yard
15. Luther Mumm shelling corn
16. 1st picture of Charles
17. Donna, Kathie (cast on arm) & Edwin at Nannie's in Urbana
18. Sally with Charles
19. National Husking Contest 1st picker sheller

Reel 4: November 1953-March 1954

1. Edwin removing nails from boards
2. Everett & Edwin with dead pheasant/Tissie & boy dogs
3. Sally with our 4 kids
4. Going to Charles's baptism
5. Charles in bassinette
6. Kathie's 6th birthday Nov. 1953
7. Charles
8. Christmas/Grandparents
9. Going hunting/birds/Edwin
10. Christmas Dinner
11. Playing Chinese checkers
12. Sally & Charles



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13. Kathie
14. Charles in bassinette & playpen
15. Going Bye!
16. Our children doing what?

Reel 5: April-May 1954

1. Down lane to school bus
2. Charles in playpen, Donna & Edwin playing on floor
3. Easter
4. To home/Easter/hunting eggs
5. Everett's birthday dinner
6. Kids watching , Dad mowing
7. Edwin's birthday 4 years old
8. Fun at Decatur Lake
9. Aphids from mowing hay
10. Memorial Day service at cemetery
11. Butch, Nannie, Sally & kids in garden & yard

Reel 6: June-August 1954

1. Block Reunion (Good) Charles, Linda & Sharon
2. Sally's birthday June 28th
3. Swathing oats with binder pulled with "L" John Deere
4. Clif Thurman baling hay Everett on rack wagon
5. Lehmkuhler Reunion July

Reel 7: Vacation, August 1954

1. Wisconsin on to Minnesota
2. Motel we stayed in
3. On beach at Harold's
4. Deer Lake/playing on the beach
5. Iron Ore mines
6. Deer campus, cabins, road, fish house, days wash
7. Harold & _____

Reel 8: August-October 1954

1. Donna's birthday 8 years old
2. Charles birthday 1 year old
3. Edwin & Charles outside
4. Farm Progress Show
5. Combining beans
6. Visiting Orville's, Glen Erbs was there
7. Melvin & Marlene wedding, Oct. 24, 1954
8. Butch's birthday
9. School Halloween parade

Reel 9: November 1954-April 1955

1. Kathie's birthday 7 years



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2. Charles's 1st haircut
3. Edwin's
4. Still pictures/Charles
5. Nannie's birthday January 18, 1989 Birthday Dinner 1955
6. Charles bath & dance
7. Edwin & Charles quick draw artices
8. Donna, Kathie, Edwin & Charles doing house duty
9. Easter Sunday
10. Easter Dinner at Haas's

Reel 10: April 27-August 2, 1955

1. Everett's birthday
2. Homer's Centennial Parade
3. Block Reunion 6/23/1955 V. Good
4. Ralph & Phyllis wedding 6/26/55
5. Donna's birthday 9 years old

Reel 11: August-November 1955

1. Minnesota fishing tip in August
2. Grandpa holding Charles on his 2nd birthday
3. School Halloween parade
4. Kathie's birthday 8 years old

Reel 12: December 1955-June 1956

1. Christmas 1955
2. 1956 Easter time
3. Edwin's 6th birthday
4. Block Reunion – Very Good

Metal box contains Films #13-22, plus one roll of still photographs of Charles

Reel 13: June-November 1956

1. Lehmkuhler Reunion Shakamak State Park, IN.
2. Donna's birthday, 10 years old
3. Minnesota fishing (Grouse)
4. Home bye MS. River Road
5. Charles birthday, 3 years old
6. School Halloween Parade
7. Marjorie & Elmer Wedding November 17th, 1956
8. Kathie's 9th birthday

Reel 14: December 1956-June 1957

1. Ms. Howard Koerner & Girl Scout Troup
2. Candle Ceremonial
3. Scout Oath
4. Playing games
5. Refreshments



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6. Christmas 1956
7. 1957 Easter April 27th
8. Rev. Armstrong & wife and child
9. Easter egg hunt at home
10. Edwin's birthday 7 years
11. Brownies Kathie, Donna, Sally & D. Koeck
12. Block Reunion Very Good

Reel 15: June 1957-May 1958

1. Lehmkuhler Reunion McCormick's Creek State Park
2. Donna's 11th birthday
3. Minnesota Vacation – fishing kids, play ban
4. Charles's 4th birthday
5. School Halloween Parade
6. Kathie's 10th birthday
7. Christmas 1957
8. Edwin's 8th birthday 1958

Reel 16: June-August 1958

1. Block Reunion, enjoying kids entertaining (fair-good), playing croquet
2. New Salem
3. Minnesota (Homer bunch) on beach. Lake Kabetogama and back to Camp Deer

Reel 17: September 1958-June 1959

1. Charles's 5th birthday 9/3/53
2. School Halloween Parade
3. Kathie's 11th birthday
4. Christmas 1958

1959

5. Ice storm
6. Easter at church
7. Mother's Day
8. Kathie's confirmation
9. Edwin's 9th birthday
10. Block children at play
11. Block Reunion (fairly good)

Reel 18: June-November 1959

1. Lehmkuhler Reunion
2. Donna's 13th birthday
3. Minnesota vacation
4. Charles's 6th birthday
5. School Halloween Parade
6. Kathie's 12th birthday
7. Mary & Dick's Wedding December 5, 1959

Reel 19: December 1959-September 1960



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1. Christmas 1959
2. 1960 Donna cheerleading
3. March snow
4. Edwin's 10th birthday
5. Donna's 8th grade graduation
6. Block Family Reunion (Good)
7. Minnesota fishing (Skiing)
8. Charles's 7th birthday
9. Spotlight Dance

Reel 20: October 1960-November 1961

1. Halloween – Charles
2. Kathie's 13th birthday
3. Christmas 1960

1961

4. Kathie's Confirmation
5. Kathie's 8th grade graduation
6. Edwin's 11th birthday
7. Block Reunion (Very Good)
8. Minnesota vacation
9. Charles's 9th birthday
10. Going to Carol and Hugh's Wedding 9/10/1961
11. Halloween
12. Kathie's 14th birthday

Reel 21: December 1961-December 1963

1. Christmas 1961
2. Edwin's 12th birthday 1962
3. Block Reunion (Very Good)
4. Donna's 16th birthday
5. Mull's visit to Illinois
6. Kentucky Lake Camping
7. Charles's 9th birthday

1963

8. Easter
9. Memorial Service – Cemetery
10. Camping at Raccoon Lake
11. Minnesota Vacation
12. Kathie's 16th birthday
13. Christmas 1963

Reel 22: January 1964-December 1966

1. January through April building our house
2. Edwin's 8th grade graduation party
3. Vacation to Chattanooga, TN with Sally's kin



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4. Kathie's date
5. Block Reunion (Very Good)
6. Going to Church

Reel position for 23 was not numbered

VHS Tapes:

VHS Tape 1: Includes Reels 1-10

VHS Tape 2: Includes Reels 11-19

VHS Tape 3: Includes Reels 20-22