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**Busey Family
Papers, 1856-1970**

COLLECTION 16

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Laura Mondt & Youngmie Han, 2010

Creator/Corporate name: Busey family.

Inclusive Dates: 1856-1970, bulk 1900-1930.

Physical Description: 4 boxes, (2.6 linear feet).

Provenance: Items in this collection were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives.

Access: The 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.

Historical Note:

The Busey family is one of the founding families of Urbana and 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 other 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) m. Artemesia Jones (1826-1914)

Son: Matthew W. Busey (1854-1932) m. Katherine Richards (1857-1918)

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

Daughter: Garreta Busey (1893-1976)

Daughter: Margaret Jean Busey Yntema (1898-2002)

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

After William's death, Myra remarried Dr. Frederic A. Besley (1868-1944)

but was still a part of the Busey family and was especially close to Garreta Busey.

Granddaughter: Josephine K. Busey (1893-1975) m. Marion Aston Smith (1897-1975). Daughter of James Buchannan Busey I (1856-1935).

Grandson: Simeon Harrison Busey, Sr. (1885-1961)

Son of James Buchannan Busey I (1856-1935)

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

Daughter: Marietta Ruth (1878-1949)

Daughter: Bertha Lucendia (1880-1923)

Son: Charles Bowen (1887-1918)

Other Busey family members:



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Isaac Busey (1849-1903)

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

John W. Busey (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.

Subject terms:

Names:

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:

The materials are arranged by family grouping. All materials that belonged to an individual were kept together and arranged by category in alphabetical order. There are 3 series that are arranged in four boxes.

Series 1: Miscellaneous materials: contains miscellaneous Busey materials that were not a part of a family unit or encompassed several family units.

Series 2: Materials of Simeon H. Busey and his descendants: contains the materials of the descendants of Simeon H. Busey and his wife. It includes the correspondence and notes written throughout the course of Josephine K. Busey's genealogical research. Folder 10, box 2 contains materials pertaining to her maternal McIntyre/McIntire line, and folder 11, box 2 contains



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Busey Family

COLLECTION 16

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materials pertaining to her paternal Busey line, regarding which Josephine corresponded often with her brother Simeon.

Series 3: Materials of 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.

Container Listing:

Box 1:

Series 1: Miscellaneous materials

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

Folder 2: Busey Mansion (article in Champaign County Board of Realtors Multiple Listing Service, January 22, 1973)

Folder 3: Miscellaneous

Folder 4: Unknown author- diary circa 1856

Folder 5: Busey, Samuel- Military discharge (1807)

Folder 6: Busey, Elizabeth- letter received (1880)

Folder 7: Busey, Isaac C.- property tax receipt (1901)

Series 2: Materials of Simeon H. Busey and his descendants

Folder 8: Artemesia Jones Busey- 2 diaries circa 1910-1914

Folder 9: William H. Busey- Will (1917 copy)

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

Folder 11: Myra Besley- correspondence- to Frederic Besley (1908)

Folder 12: Myra Besley- correspondence- Garreta Besley (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- Willmyra Plantation (1928)

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

Folder 17: Myra Besley- travel diary- Europe (1907-1908)

Folder 18: Myra Besley- finances- Busey's State Bank (1915-1919)

Folder 19: Myra Besley- finances- Busey Bank account (1911-1917)

Folder 20: Myra Besley- finances- Busey Bros. and Co. (1916)

Folder 21: Myra Besley- finances- Matthew Busey/ Busey Bank (1909-1927)

Folder 22: Myra Besley- finances- Miscellaneous (1907-1932)

Box 2

Series 2, continued

Folder 1: Myra Besley- finances-real estate (1917-1925)

Folder 2: Myra Besley- finances- taxes (1918)



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COLLECTION 16

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- 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 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: Materials of Samuel T. Busey and his descendants

- Folder 12: Samuel T. Busey- 1909 tributes upon death
- Folder 13: Samuel T. Busey- telegrams of congratulations from 1890 congressional race
- 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), including donation correspondence
- Folder 16: Samuel T. Busey- official election correspondence from 1890 congressional election
- Folder 17: Samuel T. Busey- newspaper articles/propaganda regarding 1890 congressional election
- Folder 18: Samuel T. Busey- letters of congratulations received after 1890 congressional victory, letter writer last names A-B
- Folder 19: Samuel T. Busey- letters of congratulations received after 1890 congressional victory, letter writer last names C-D
- Folder 20: Samuel T. Busey- letters of congratulations received after 1890 congressional victory, letter writer last names E-H
- Folder 21: Samuel T. Busey- letters of congratulations received after 1890 congressional victory, letter writer last names I-K
- Folder 22: Samuel T. Busey- letters of congratulations received after 1890 congressional victory, letter writer last names M-P

Box 3:

Series 3 continued

- Folder 1: Samuel T. Busey- letters of congratulations received after 1890 congressional victory, letter writer last names Q-T
- Folder 2: Samuel T. Busey- letters of congratulations received after 1890 congressional victory, letter writer last names U-Z
- Folder 3: Samuel T. Busey- empty envelopes (various dates)
- Folder 4: Samuel T. Busey- Miscellaneous (some materials do not have his name but were included in his possessions)
- Folder 5: Samuel T. Busey- Miscellaneous correspondence (1862-1903)
- Folder 6: Samuel T. Busey- Miscellaneous receipts, finances, etc. (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)



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COLLECTION 16

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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: OVERSIZED: Materials of Simeon H. Busey and his descendants

Folder 12: Ledger: mixed usage, John W. Busey (1864) and Simeon H. Busey (1870s-1901)

Folder 13: Diary: Myra Besley (1917-1926) Description: blue, titled "A Line a Day"

Box 4:

Series 2: OVERSIZED, continued

Scrapbook: Garreta Busey, circa 1907-1910 Description: red marbled cover

Ledger: Garreta Busey (1933-1939) (matched through handwriting samples) Description: large, thin green book titled "journal" on spine

Ledger: Garreta Busey (1952-1959) Description: small, black with red spine. Located in box 3, folder 14.

Ledger: Garreta Busey (1958-1968) Description: thick green book titled "journal" on spine

Ledger: Garreta Busey (1968-1976) Description: thick green book titled "ledger" on spine

Ledger: Jean Busey Yntema (1922-1931) Description: black, titled "ledger" on cover

Series 3: OVERSIZED: Materials of Samuel T. Busey and his descendants

Ledger: Samuel T. Busey- Busey and McClellin Daybook (1857-1858) Description: large, thin book with black marbled (speckled) cover