



The Urbana Free Library

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Autograph Albums Collection, 1878-1907

COLLECTION 56

Champaign County Historical Archives

Finding Aid Author: Donica Martin, February, 2014, updated 2024

Creator/Corporate name: Champaign County Historical Archives.

Inclusive Dates: 1878-1929.

Physical Description: 2 boxes (1 linear ft.)

Provenance: Varies.

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 items in the Autograph Albums collection range in date from 1878-1929. As with typical autograph albums of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the albums in this collection were used by students and business professionals to collect signatures, short poems, and “remember me” verses from classmates and colleagues. The Autograph Albums collection consists of fourteen albums from thirteen individuals. Each album belonged to a resident of Champaign County. These albums were selected from a number of special collections located at the Champaign County Historical Archives of the Urbana Free Library.

Biographical Notes:

Minnie Woodruff Hubbard Lindley, ca 1878-1882: Minnie Woodruff Hubbard was born March 13, 1858 in Urbana, Illinois. Her parents were Urbana pioneers Thomas S. Hubbard and Jane E. Woodruff. Her father, Thomas Hubbard, worked as a hardware manufacturer and as a private banker in Urbana. Minnie Hubbard and Dr. Austin M. Lindley (1856-1932) were married on November 17, 1886. Dr. Lindley became a prominent physician and surgeon in the city of Urbana. In 1895, the couple commissioned architect Rudolph Zerse to build the Lindley House located at 312 West Green Street. The Lindleys had no children, but raised Minnie Lindley's niece, Ida, who later inherited the Lindley House. The Lindley family was active in the community and Minnie Lindley was an active worker for the First Presbyterian Church of Urbana. Minnie Hubbard Lindley died at her home on May 15, 1935 at the age of 77.

Mary McClain, ca 1879-1886: Mary E. McClain was born March 19, 1865 in Urbana. Her parents were Urbana pioneers Allen McClain (1823-1899) and Elizabeth Frances Busey (1838-1892). She was the granddaughter of Urbana pioneer Matthew Wales Busey (1798-1852). For many years, McClain lived with her two sisters, Annie and Addie. Mary McClain died April 7, 1945 at Carle Memorial hospital. She was 80 years old.

Annie McClain, 1882-1884: Anna “Annie” McClain was born in Urbana in 1870 to Allen (1823-1899) and Elizabeth Frances Busey (1838-1892). She was the granddaughter of Urbana



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pioneer Matthew Wales Busey (1798-1852). Annie McClain was an instructor in Urbana public schools for twenty years and was the first principal of Hays School. She and her uncle Samuel T. Busey died in Minnesota in 1909 in a boating accident. McClain was 39 years old.

Enos Brown Sadorus, 1882-1891: Enos Brown Sadorus was born near Sadorus Township on November 24, 1869. He was the son of George Wade Bacon (1838-1911) and Phebe J. Brown Sadorus and grandson of Champaign County pioneer, Henry S. Sadorus (1783-1878). Enos Sadorus married Lillian Marsh on May 3, 1894 in Urbana and the couple had five children. Sadorus worked as a musical instrument repairman at the Lloyd music store in Champaign for over 25 years. He was also a member of the Knights of Pythias. He died on February 21, 1949 at age 79.

Thomas H. Trevett, ca. 1883: Thomas Henry 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.

Lydia Wade Willard, 1883-1888:

Lydia Clementine Wade was born to Arthur E. and Elizabeth Wade in Tolono Township, September 22, 1875. She graduated from Urbana High School in 1893 and worked as a teacher in Champaign County until her marriages to Frank D. Willard in 1895. Lydia Willard resided in Champaign County until her death in 1915.

Edward Benefield, ca. 1883-1889: Edward James Benefield was born in Tippecanoe County, Indiana, but spent the majority of his life as a resident of Vermillion County, Illinois. His parents were James C. Benefield and Philinda Kuehl Benefield, of New Jersey and Champaign, Illinois respectively. Benefield married Nettie Grace Crum on August 16, 1896. Mr. Benefield died on December 5, 1933 in Tilton, Illinois at the age of 69.

Alma Lyons Carney, ca. 1883-1896: Alma Lyons was born in Urbana, Illinois on November 3, 1855. Her parents were Alonzo and Julia Esther Bassett Lyons. Alma Lyons married Reverend Robert E. Carney of Ohio on April 26, 1886. She died November 5, 1939 at the Baptist Home for the Aged in Maywood, Illinois.

Mary Howard Trevett, 1884-1885: Mary Howard was born November 29, 1866 in Leroy, Illinois to Daniel O. and Sarah Howard. She married Thomas H. Trevett in 1894 and the couple settled in Champaign. Thomas and Mary Trevett traveled extensively, both within the United States and throughout South America and Europe. Mary Trevett was also an active member of the community. In 1956, she donated \$60,000 to the Cunningham Children’s home for the construction of the Thomas and Mary Trevett Cottage. She also donated 45 acres to the Leroy



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City Council for the construction of a park in that city. The land had been in the Howard family for over one hundred years. Trevett died at the age of 90 while visiting her daughter in Florida.

Etta Ahlrichs, 1884-1889: Etta S. Ahlrichs was born in Peoria, Illinois on March 25, 1870. The daughter of German immigrants, Etta moved with her family to Urbana in 1871. Her father, August Ahlrichs (1839-1921), was a member of the Urbana city council. Etta Ahlrichs married George B. Jenkins December 10, 1903 in Urbana. Etta Jenkins became a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. George Jenkins was a Mason and a member of the Urbana city council. Etta Jenkins was step-mother to George Jenkins' two children. She died at the age of 83 at her home in Urbana.

Henry Morton, ca. 1888-1890, 1910: Henry Morton was born Elmer Henry Morton on December 3, 1871 in Sadorus, Illinois. His parents were Thomas Henry (1841-1922) and Sarah Ellen Smith Morton (1849-1907). Morton spent his entire life in Champaign County and inherited land in both the city of Champaign and the village of Sadorus as part of his father's estate. Henry Morton died on March 14, 1936 at the age of 64.

Joseph Oscar Cunningham, ca. 1889: Judge Joseph Oscar Cunningham was an influential pioneer of Urbana. He was born in Erie County, New York to Hiram W. and Eunice Brown Cunningham on December 12, 1830. Cunningham came to Urbana in 1853 and, after attending law school in Cleveland, Ohio, opened his first law office in 1859. Judge Cunningham and Mary McConoughey were wed October 13, 1853 in Bainbridge, Ohio. Judge Cunningham was active in the Urbana community. He served as a University of Illinois trustee and served four years as county judge. He also helped to organize the Big Four Railroad in Champaign County. Judge Cunningham was a member of the Masonic order and the Knights Templar. He died in 1917 at the age of 87.

Thusenelda Gross Martin, 1907: 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. Thusenelda 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 as well. She was a member of several organizations including the Champaign County Humane Society, the Sierra Group, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 71, and the Wesley United Methodist Church of Urbana. She died August 31, 1986 at the age of 90.

Virginia Brand Lovingfoss, 1929: Virginia Brand Lovingfoss was born August 20, 1914 to Lee Roy Brand and Frances Brand. In 1933 she married Richard Mark Lovingfoss. They had two sons, John and Russell Mark Lovingfoss.



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Arrangement:

Autograph albums in this collection are arranged in chronological order starting with the earliest entry.

Subject Terms:

Autograph albums

Autograph verse

Names:

Ahlichs, Etta
Benefield, Edward
Brand, Virginia
Carney, Alma
Lyons, Alma
Cunningham, Joseph Oscar
Gross, Thusenelda
Lovingfoss, Virginia Brand
Martin, Thusenelda
Howard, Mary
Trevett, Mary H.
Hubbard, Minnie Woodruff
Lindley, Minnie Woodruff
McClain, Annie
McClain, Mary
Morton, Henry
Sadorus, Enos Brown
Trevett, Thomas H.

Container List

Box 1

Folder 1: Minnie Woodruff Hubbard Lindley, ca 1878-1882

Folder 2: Mary McClain, ca 1879-1886

Folder 3: Annie McClain, 1882-1884

Folder 4: Enos Brown Sadorus, 1882-1884, 1884-1891

Folder 5: Thomas H. Trevett, ca 1883

Folder 6: Edward Benefield, ca 1883-1889

Folder 7: Alma Lyons Carney, ca 1883-1896

Folder 8: Mary Howard Trevett, 1884-1885

Folder 9: Etta Ahlichs, 1884-1889



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Box 2

Folder 10: Henry Morton, ca 1888-1890

Folder 11: Joseph Oscar Cunningham, ca 1889

Folder 12: Thusenelda Gross Martin, 1907

Folder 13: Virginia Brand, 1929