

Collection #
M 1303

**BROWN COUNTY ART COLONY
PAPERS, PHOTOGRAPHS, GRAPHICS 1884-2005**

[Collection Information](#)

[Historical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

Processed by

Jessica Erin Fischer
September 2017

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 manuscript boxes, 1 OMB folder graphics; 1 folder photographs

COLLECTION DATES: 1884-2005

PROVENANCE: Henry H. Gray, Bloomington, Indiana, 2017

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2017.0159

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Between 1890 and 1910, artist colonies were forming all across the United States, Indiana included. Artists, primarily from Chicago, migrated to Brown County in Nashville, Indiana starting in the late 1800s in search of inspiration. Brown County was an ideal location, remote enough to feature rustic cabins, vistas, forests, and creeks, yet close enough to larger markets for art such as Indianapolis, Chicago, Louisville, and Cincinnati.

Though other artists had regularly visited Brown County, T.C. Steele (1847-1926) was the first major artist to settle in Brown County, buying property and building his home 'House of the Singing Winds' in 1907. Steele used the remote location as inspiration for his landscape work. During Steele's time here, he built studios and guest houses for friends and clients and is credited with founding the Brown County Art Colony.

Other artists followed suit, such as Adolph and Alberta Schulz who were regular visitors up until 1917 when they officially relocated to Brown County from Wisconsin in search of landscapes untouched by the dairy industry. Though they were not the first to settle in Brown County, the Schulz's are credited with the initial growth of the art colony.

As the art colony grew, the area became popular for seasonal visits from artists who favored Brown County for its scenery, inexpensive lodgings at the Pittman Inn, and artistic companionship. By the 1920s, the area became popular with art lovers as well who would make the trip for the fresh air and to visit artist studios.

The Brown County Art Gallery Association was organized in 1925, and the Brown County Art Gallery was established a year later in 1926. Membership in the association aided artists by allowing them to display their work outside of their studios, increasing public interest. The gallery's inaugural exhibit featured fifty paintings and several etchings and drew a crowd of over a thousand visitors.

Sources:

Brown County, "History of the Art Colony of the Midwest,"
<http://www.browncounty.com/art-colony-of-the-midwest>

Information in Collection

Josephine A. Graf, "The Brown County Art Colony," *Indiana Magazine of History*, 1939,
<https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/imh/article/view/7176/8065>

Rachel Perry, "The Ideal Sketching Ground," *Traces*, Summer 1994

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains letters from Marie Goth, Marcus and Isabelle Dickey, and Louis Griffith, most of which are addressed to Dr. Joseph and Mae Weinstein. There are numerous articles and clippings addressing T.C. Steele, Marie Goth, and other artists known to have resided in Brown County. There are several photographs depicting the artists of the Brown County Art Colony, as well as several prints of T.C. Steele's work.

Artists include T.C. Steele, Louis Griffith, Marie Goth, Dr. Joseph and Mae Weinstein, Rula Tobey, V. Marcus Dickey.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Marie Goth letters, cards, notes, 1926-1969	Box 1, Folder 1
Marcus and Isabelle Dickey letters, news clippings, 1922-1951	Box 1, Folder 2
Louis Griffith letters, 1924-1925	Box 1, Folder 3
Katherine Debs letter, 1927	Box 1, Folder 4
Marie Goth news articles, announcements, 1963-1975	Box 1, Folder 5
Brown County Art Guild exhibit programs, 1958-1969	Box 1, Folder 6
Children and Sunlight exhibit (Ada Schultz) letter, articles, photo, 2005	Box 1, Folder 7
T.C. Steele Memorial articles, pamphlets, 1986	Box 1, Folder 8
Lines to T.C. Steele, Painter booklet, 1918	Box 1, Folder 9
Selma Steele, post card, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 10
Art for Your Sake, F.C. Senour, 1924	Box 1, Folder 11
Brown County Artists, magazine articles, 1968-1991	Box 1, Folder 12
Adolph R. Schulz, exhibit programs, 1972-1989	Box 1, Folder 13
Marcus and Mae Weinstein, 1922	Photographs: Folder 1
"Heart of the Highlands" group photo, 1921	Photographs: Folder 1
T.C. Steele photo, n.d.	Photographs: Folder 1

T.C. Steele studio, photo, n.d.	Photographs: Folder 1
T.C. Steele "The Haymakers", print, n.d.	OVB Graphic: Folder 1
T.C. Steele "Belmont", print, n.d.	OVB Graphic: Folder 1
T.C. Steele "Winter Morning", print, n.d.	OVB Graphic: Folder 1
T.C. Steele "On The Belmont Road", print, n.d.	OVB Graphic: Folder 1
T.C. Steele, print, 1884	OVB Graphic: Folder 1
Centennial Pageant of Indiana University, poster, 1920	OVB Graphic: Folder 1
T.C. Steele small pencil drawings, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 10
Various Brown County Artists, news clippings, 1926- 1977	Box 1, Folder 14
T.C. Steele, news clippings, 1926-1999	Box 1, Folder 15
Sheldon Swope Art Gallery, pamphlet, 1970	Box 1, Folder 16
Scrapbook about T.C. and Selma Steele, Mae Weinstein, and Rula Tobey-photos, letters, news clippings, pamphlet, Hoosier Magazine, 1922-2000 (1 of 2)	Box 1, Folder 17
Scrapbook about T.C. and Selma Steele, Mae Weinstein, and Rula Tobey-photos, letters, news clippings, pamphlet, Hoosier Magazine, 1922-2000 (2 of 2)	Box 1, Folder 18
Scrapbook about Brown County Artists-photos, letters, news clippings, pamphlets, L.O. Griffiths greeting cards, 1926-1969	Box 2, Folder 19

"Indiana Art" John Herron Art Museum, booklet,
1951

Box 2, Folder 20

Brown County Ballads by Joseph Allen Minturn,
1928

Box 2, Folder 21

T.C. Steele Art Forgery, news clippings, 1984-1987

Box 2, Folder 22