

Collection #
M 1253

**BROWN FAMILY
COLLECTION, 1854-1977**

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Processed by

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August 28, 2016

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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 manuscript boxes, 1 photo boxes

COLLECTION DATES: 1854-1977

PROVENANCE: Carol Hite Andersen, Arlington Heights, IL, November 30, 2015

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Collection M 0789, BV 3460–3468: Lorenzo Dow Brown Journals and Transcriptions

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2015.0352

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Lorenzo Dow Brown was born on 7 August 1839 in Montmorenci, Tippecanoe County, Indiana. He was the fourth and last child of Mary and Michael Brown. His siblings were two brothers, Simon and Wesley, and a sister, Sarah E. (born in 1837). Before his birth, Lorenzo's parents had migrated 800 miles from Virginia to Montmorenci, where they owned a farm of over 160 acres. Lorenzo married Mary Elizabeth Robinson in 1861 and had eight children, two of whom died at birth. The others were John (1862-1933), Thaddeus Stevens (1866-1954), Mary June (1870-1898), May Lily (1874-1960), Elizabeth Rebecca (1877-1948), and Edith (1879-1962). Lorenzo Dow Brown lived in Montmorenci until 1892, when he and his family moved to Elkhart, Elkhart County, Indiana. Brown died at the age of 60 in Elkhart, on 16 September 1899. His wife Mary died in Elkhart on 15 September 1902. John Brown married Fanny Amelia West on July 21, 1901 and had 7 children: Ruth June, John West, Calton Farwell, Edith Rowcliff, Frances Marion, Bessie Evangeline, and Raymond Howard. Ruth June Brown went on to marry Venable Eaton Johnston on August 28, 1921 and they had three children: Orlin, Virginia Ardy, and Katheryn Eaton. Thaddeus Brown never married. Mary June Brown became a doctor but died at the age of 28 of tuberculosis. May Lily married Enos Hite on October 12, 1897 and had two children: John and Marion. Marion's daughter Carol Hite Andersen donated this collection. Elizabeth Rebecca "Bessie" married Clifford Mathias on April 27, 1897 and they had two children: Paul C. and Thaddeus B. Paul married Clara Baker and Thaddeus married Miriam Elder. Edith married William Melvin Wilson on August 20, 1912. He came to the marriage with one child, Berkley Wilson, who had been born to his first wife, Estella Presnell. Estella died a few days after Berkley's birth. Edith and William had no children together.

Sources:

Information in the collection, specifically the biographical sketches of family members written by Carol Andersen.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains information relating to the Brown Family and their descendents. Due to the varying types of documents and materials in this collection, separate series for this family have been created.

The collection is organized into three series:

Series One: Family Biographical Information

Series one contains biographical documents on the immediate family members; including birth certificates, land deeds, marriage and death certificates, and photocopies of individual pictures. This includes Lorenzo and wife Mary, all of their children, and Ruth June Brown Johnston. There is information about Leoni College, where Lorenzo Brown attended. There is a transcription of a referendum book that belonged to Lorenzo Brown. Also included is a copy of May Lily's autograph book, photocopies of pictures of the family gravesites, maps and information of the towns they lived in, and cards that were sent by family members.

Series Two: Correspondence

Series two contains letters written by V.E. Johnston during WWI, letters from Ruth June Brown to V.E. Johnston when they were dating, and letters from Mary Brown, John Brown, and Fanny Brown. The majority of this series are letters from 1952 - 1977 between Lily May Hite (Brown) and Ruth June Brown Johnston about the family history. June was very interested in genealogy and particularly the history of the Brown family. She wrote to Lily May for many years in order to compile as much information as she could.

Series Three: Photographs

Series three contains professional portraits of individual family members along with group photos. There are also pictures of the gravesites, land and houses that used to be owned by the family, pillows that Edith Wilson (Brown) painted, and snapshots taken by the family. Most of the photographs have writing on the back. Copies were made of pictures where Carol Hite Andersen had taken notes on paper beside the photos and copies are placed in relevant manuscript folders of that family member.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Family Biographical Information

CONTENTS

Lorenzo Dow Brown Papers

Leoni College

Transcription of L.D. Brown's Referendum Book

Mary Brown (Robinson) Papers

John Brown Papers

Thaddeus Steven Brown Papers

Mary June Brown Papers

May Lily Hite (Brown) Papers

May Lily Brown Autograph Book

Elizabeth Rebecca "Bessie" Mathias (Brown) Papers

Edith Wilson (Brown) Papers

Ruth June Brown Johnston Papers

Family Gravesites

Maps

Montmorenci/Shelby Township Information

Family Greeting Cards

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 5

Box 1, Folder 6

Box 1, Folder 7

Box 1, Folder 8

Box 1, Folder 9

Box 1, Folder 10

Box 1, Folder 11

Box 1, Folder 12

Box 1, Folder 13

Box 1, Folder 14

Box 1, Folder 15

Box 1, Folder 16

Series 2: Correspondence

CONTENTS

CONTAINER

Letters from Mary Brown (Robinson)	Box 1, Folder 17
Letters from John Brown to wife, Fanny	Box 1, Folder 18
Letters from/to Fanny Brown (West)	Box 1, Folder 19
Ruth June Brown Letters to V.E. Johnston	Box 1, Folder 20
WWI Letters from V.E. Johnston to Family	Box 1, Folder 21
Letters to Ruth June and V.E. Johnston	Box 2, Folder 1
Letters from/to Lily May Hite (Brown): 1915 - 1946	Box 2, Folder 2
Misc. Letters	Box 2, Folder 3
Information on Following Letters	Box 2, Folder 4
Genealogy Letters: 1952 - 1953	Box 2, Folder 5
Genealogy Letters: Jan. - June, 1954	Box 2, Folder 6
Genealogy Letters: July - Dec., 1954	Box 2, Folder 7
Genealogy Letters: Jan. - June, 1955	Box 2, Folder 8
Genealogy Letters: July - Sept., 1955	Box 2, Folder 9
Genealogy Letters: Oct. - Dec., 1955	Box 2, Folder 10
Genealogy Letters: Jan. - June, 1956	Box 2, Folder 11
Genealogy Letters: Jan. - June, 1957	Box 3, Folder 1
Genealogy Letters: July - Dec., 1957	Box 3, Folder 2
Genealogy Letters: 1958 - 1977	Box 3, Folder 3

Series 3: Photographs

CONTENTS

Lorenzo Dow Brown Portraits

Mary Brown (Robinson) Portraits

John Brown Portrait

Thaddeus Brown Portraits; Mrs. Wilson Dies at Home; Lorenzo Dow Brown

Mary June Brown Portraits; Dr. Mary June Brown located in back row in front of column, second from top.

May Lily Hite (Brown) Portraits: #1 May Lilly Brown (Hite); #2 Enos Hite; # 3 & 4 May Lily Brown Hite.

Rebecca "Bessie" Mathias (Brown) Portraits: #1 Cliff Mathias.

Edith Wilson (Brown) Portraits: #6 & 7 Edith Brown; #1 Cliff Wilson and Edith Wilson; # 2 seated is Cliff Wilson, leaning is Edith Wilson; J. Berkley Wilson and Ena Ruth Wilson seated.

Ruth June Johnston (Brown) Photos

Misc. Family Portraits

Brown Family Portraits: #2 Bessie Brown, May Lily Brown, Edith Brown; #6 Lorenzo Dow Brown, Mary Robinson Brown, John Brown (baby).

Misc. Snapshots: Last image (1942), May Lily Brown Hite, unknown Matthias; unknown Matthias; Bessie Brown Matthias; unknown Matthias.

Random Pictures

CONTAINER

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 2

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 3

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 4

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 5

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 6

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 7

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 8

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 9

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 10

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 11

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 12

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 13

Misc. House Pictures

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 14

Graves and Monuments

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 15