

EDMUND H. EITEL PAPERS, 1851-1920

Collection #
M 628

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Processed by:
Charles Latham
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USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box

COLLECTION DATES: Inclusive 1851-1920; bulk 1913-1914

PROVENANCE: Jack McDonald, Indianapolis IN, 12 February 1992

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RELATED HOLDINGS: M 240-- James Whitcomb Riley and Harriet Eitel Wells Johnson

ACCESSION NUMBER: 92.0229

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Edmund H. Eitel ([1887]-1960) was born in Indianapolis. His father was Henry Eitel and his mother was Elva Riley, sister of Hoosier poet James Whitcomb Riley. Eitel's uncle celebrated him in one poem as "The Knightly Rider of the Knee."

Eitel graduated from Shortridge High School in 1903, and earned a degree in mechanical engineering at Cornell University, where he was editor-in-chief of the Cornell Daily Sun.

Eitel worked for several years at the Union Trust Company in Indianapolis, but took some time off at the time of Riley's death in 1916 to act as his uncle's literary executor. He worked with Laurence Chambers at the Bobbs-Merrill Company to produce the standard biographical edition of Riley's works.

During World War I, Eitel was a lieutenant in the naval air force. He later built one of the first houses in the suburb of

Golden Hill.

Sources: Indiana Biographical Series, Vol. 56 pages 25 and 28

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection, filling one manuscript box, contains family correspondence 1856-1900, and correspondence and notes on the genealogy of the Riley family and some of its forebears, notably the Slick, Marine, Wilson, and Harvey families. The name Riley, though it sounds Irish, has Pennsylvania Dutch origins, as Ryland or Reylandt.

The genealogical material, in Folders 1-17, came from a thick looseleaf notebook, prepared by Eitel about 1913 when he contemplated doing a book about his uncle's ancestry. Material has been kept in its original order, which follows a numerical series set up by Eitel on a chart in Folder 1.

Family letters and papers are in Folders 18-26. They mainly concern Reuben A. Riley, James Whitcomb's father, who was a lawyer with considerable property and a poetical bent. There are also a few letters addressed to the poet, dating from 1870 to 1900.

An early portrait, probably of Reuben Riley, and four later portraits, probably of Henry Eitel, are stored in Visual Collections.

FOLDER LISTING

FOLDER

1	Genealogical charts
2	Correspondence with W. C. Bobbs about proposed genealogical book
3	Reuben A. Riley
4	Andrew A. Riley
5	Andrew A. Riley-- photostats of documents
6	Re: burial of Margaret Slick Riley
7	James Rylandt
8	Reylandt family
9	From John Slick Riley re: Ryland family
10	Harvey family
11	Slick family I
12	Slick family II
13	Wilson family
14	Marine family
15	From Philip Kabel-- genealogical
16	Laurine Taylor Keyser, "Mother's Memories of Grandfather's Memories of the Rileys Emigrating to the West"
17	Historical notes transcribed
18	Deed to Phenton A. Riley 1851
19	Letter [Joseph A. Riley?] 1861
20	Reuben A. Riley-- letters 1856-1870
21	Reuben A. Riley-- designs
22	[Reuben A. Riley?] essay "Is Death Dreadful?"
23	Letters to James Whitcomb Riley 1870-1900
24	Carbon copies of poems Greenfield 1880 [JWR?]
25	John Riley and Elva Riley Eitel-- letters
26	Poem "The Nativity" by E. A. Richards
27	VC Photo portraits-- 1 of [Reuben A. Riley?] -- 4 of [Henry Eitel?]

CATALOGUING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: Eitel, Edmund Henry, 1886-1960

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Riley, James Whitcomb, 1849-1916
Riley, Reuben A.
Riley, Andrew A.
Riley, Phenton A.
Slick family--Genealogy
Harvey family--Genealogy
Wilson family--Genealogy
Marine family--Genealogy
Riley family--Genealogy
Poets, American--Indiana--Indianapolis
Greenfield (Ind.)--Genealogy

END