

Collection #
P 0342

FRANK AND HELEN (DEVELLING) MILLER FAMILY COLLECTION, CA. 1821–CA. 1988

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September 1997

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21 June 2004

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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 2 boxes of photographs, 1 folder of color photographs, 4 folders
of oversized photographs, 1 box of manuscript material, 9
oversized manuscript folders, 4 yearbooks.

COLLECTION
DATES: Ca. 1861–ca. 1988

PROVENANCE: Estate of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Miller, via Indiana Masonic Home Foundation, 525 N. Illinois Street, Indianapolis.
May 1995

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: DeVelling Family Papers (SC 2602)

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1995.0537

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Helen (DeVelling) Miller, born in Indianapolis 29 October 1907, was the only child of Lewis P. DeVelling and May (Ballard) DeVelling. She graduated from Arsenal Technical High School in 1925, and earned a baccalaureate in sociology from Butler University in 1929. She was a member of Alpha Tau Sorority, and held various executive positions in the organization through the 1950s. Helen married Frank Cecil Miller 9 May 1936 and they resided at 5302 North Central Avenue until ca. 1990. She died in May 1995.

Frank Miller, born in Connorsville, Indiana in 1902, was the eldest son of Wilbur and "Minnie" Miller. The Millers were farmers at Andersonville, near Connorsville. Frank graduated from Connorsville High School in 1919 and studied agriculture at Purdue University. He worked as a salesman for the Pearson Piano Company, L. S. Ayres, Banner Whitehill, and other companies. He died in Indianapolis ca. 1988.

May (Ballard) DeVelling, born 9 June 1876 in Indianapolis, was the daughter of William Penn Ballard and Louisa Jane Shideler. She married Lewis DeVelling 9 May 1906. May DeVelling was a troop leader in the Camp Fire Girls movement in Indianapolis through the 1920s. She died 10 March 1934 in Indianapolis.

Lewis P. DeVelling, born in Zanesville, Ohio 9 August 1873, was the son of Charles Theodore DeVelling and Susan (Thompson) DeVelling. DeVelling came to Indianapolis in ca. 1898, and worked as an inspector for the Internal Revenue Bureau. He served forty years on the board of elders of the Memorial Presbyterian Church. He died in June 1954.

Charles DeVelling, born 25 June 1843 in Athens, Ohio served as a drummer and infantryman with the Seventeenth Ohio Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. DeVelling's marriage to Susan Thompson produced three children: Carolyn, Susan Jr., and Lewis DeVelling. He died 14 January 1923 in Zanesville, Ohio.

Sources:

Items in the collection.

Camp Fire Girls Collection (M 526)

"Lewis DeVelling was Tax Prober," *Indianapolis News*, 28 June 1954, p. 6, col. 1.

R. L. Polk and Co.'s Indianapolis Directory, 1935. Indianapolis: R. L. Polk and Company, 1935.
R. L. Polk and Co.'s Indianapolis Directory, 1988. Indianapolis: R. L. Polk and Company, 1988.
Weigle, Frederic H., ed. *Purdue University Alumni Directory.* Lafayette: Purdue University, 1934.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of photographs, printed items, and manuscript material, made or accumulated by three generations of the DeVelling and Miller families of Indianapolis and Andersonville, Indiana. Helen (DeVelling) Miller was the last surviving member of these families and acquired the items following the deaths of her parents and husband. The processor divided the collection into seven series based on the names of the families and individuals originally responsible for creation or accumulation of the items.

Series 1: Charles DeVelling Family contains photographs and manuscript material dating from ca. 1861 to ca. 1890. The photographs are members of the Charles DeVelling family. These include cabinet cards of Charles and Susan (Thompson) DeVelling, and their children Carolyn, Susie Jr., and Lewis DeVelling. A carte de visite made by A. C. Townsend of Springfield, Massachusetts (ca. 1861) depicts Charles DeVelling at about age eighteen as a member of the Seventeenth Ohio Infantry Regiment. Manuscript material related to DeVelling's Civil War service consists of three discharge certificates issued for his service as a drummer, and as a member of the infantry.

Manuscript material in this series includes a memoir by Susie L. DeVelling describing a chance encounter with Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in Boston, ca. 1870s. She describes a walk through his garden, their conversation, and her surprise at being given a rose from this garden at the end of the encounter.

Series 2: DeVelling-Ballard Family combines the photographs and manuscript materials of Lewis DeVelling and his wife May (Ballard) DeVelling and their daughter Helen.

This series includes two albums assembled by or for May DeVelling. Album 1 contains some portraits but mainly snapshots. These include images of May and Lewis DeVelling posing on a country lane. Other images in the album show May (Ballard) DeVelling and Lewis DeVelling outside a home and churchyard. The sites resemble the Ballard family home and Fairfield Meeting House, as shown in the publication *Old Homesteads and Historic Buildings, Genealogy and Family Lore*. The site is near Oakland, Indiana. Album 2 contains mainly photographs of Ellen DeVelling from infancy to young adulthood.

The Memorial Presbyterian Church is represented in Lewis DeVelling's service to the board of elders in a scrapbook containing letters and cards sent by parishioners on the occasion of his retirement from the church. It also contains a copy of DeVelling's obituary notice.

Series 3: May (Ballard) DeVelling shows her work with the Camp Fire Girls of Indianapolis and her family genealogy. The Camp Fire Girls are represented in an album containing group photographs of a troop posing at what may be Camp Alahi, ca. 1920s. Camp Alahi was the Camp Fire Girls summer camp site during the 1920s, and was located near Cicero, 30 miles northwest of Indianapolis. In one photograph the young women are dressed as Indians. May DeVelling or a member of the troop may have made the album, which is bound in soft leather. The cover is decorated with stenciled arrow shapes. Other material generated by the Camp Fire Girls include a cloth patch showing a campfire, and activity cards made by Camp Fire Girl Anna Louise Werner in 1920 and 1921. The cards indicate that Miss Werner completed tasks associated with home skills, such as ironing clothing, cleaning her room, and assisting with a "wholesome party."

Other photographs in this series include May (Ballard) DeVelling sitting with a group of young women in a field. A young woman wearing glasses sitting in middle row of this image may be Lewis DeVelling's sister, Carolyn. The occasion may be a box social, as the women hold boxes and summer hats on their laps. A traditional box social was usually a community event, often sponsored by a church.

Manuscript material in this series includes a letter from "Aunt Julia" regarding a visit to Alaska (1909), and a letter

from Lewis DeVelling describing an evening walk through Jefferson, Indiana, in July 1923. A letter to Mrs. O. E. McMean from May (Ballard) DeVelling discusses social activities by Helen and other young women in the “Northwoods” (possibly Camp Alahi), and plans to organize a group for former Camp Fire Girls. Other manuscript material in this series includes genealogical material consisting of handwritten notes and correspondence concerning the Ballard, Hubbard, Barnett, Odiorne, Van Horne, Long, McBride, and Shideler families.

Series 4: Helen (DeVelling) Miller documents Helen (DeVelling) Miller’s participation in social and cultural activities beginning with her life as a student at Butler University. Most photographs relate to the activities of the Alpha Tau Sorority. Three group portraits show young women dressed for a formal dinner with one-half of the group dressed in men’s tuxedos and the remaining women in formal evening dresses. Other sorority photographs include snapshots of young women sitting on a swing in a country setting, possibly Lake Potawatomi. Later photographs include images of Helen volunteering with the American Red Cross, and making jewelry in her home. Manuscript material includes certificates related to Helen’s membership in Alpha Tau, and her ordination as a deacon with the Memorial Presbyterian Church in 1974.

Series 5: Frank Miller contains materials relating to Helen’s husband. It includes childhood photographs, and manuscript material related to his activities at Purdue University. The photographs include cabinet cards of Frank and his brother, Curtis Miller. One photograph shows the Wilbur Miller family, ca. 1908. Other photographs include the Connersville High School class of 1919 and subsequent photographs of a high school reunion in 1969. Manuscript material includes certificates related to Miller’s membership in the Purdue Alumni Association, Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, the Memorial Presbyterian Church, and the Murat Temple.

Series 6: Frank and Helen (DeVelling) Miller documents their life together. It contains photographs and manuscripts related to the social and cultural life of Frank and Helen (DeVelling) Miller. The images include portraits of the Miller-DeVelling wedding in 1936, studio portraits of the couple on their fiftieth wedding anniversary, and snapshots made at Potawatomi Lodge, Steuben County, in the 1930s and 1940s. The snapshots depict the Millers and friends on vacation at the lodge on Lake James.

Series 7: Miller Family Farm is made up of six documents. Frank Miller’s family owned a farm in the Andersonville area and it is thought that these documents are the origins of their land ownership in Indiana. The first three documents in this series are for the sale of public lands to Peter Miller of Ohio in 1821 and 1823. The other three documents are indentures between various Miller family members in 1846, 1847 and 1852.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Charles DeVelling Family

CONTENTS

[Charles T. DeVelling Family portraits]

Discharge papers issued to Charles DeVelling for (purpose of re-enlistment) from Co. B, 17th Ohio Regiment 1, March 1864; 16 July 1865 [originally found in Memorial Baptist Church]

Certificate of Honorable Discharge granted to Charles T. DeVelling re. service to C. F, 17th Ohio Infantry, as drummer (April-August 1861)

Typewritten account of encounter with Henry Wadsworth Longfellow written by Susie DeVelling.

CONTAINER

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 1

Manuscript Collections:
Box 1, Folder 1

Manuscript Collections:
OM 0412, Folder 1

Manuscript Collections:
Box 1, Folder 2

[Carrie, Susie Jr., and Lewis DeVelling portraits] Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 2

Series 2: DeVelling-Ballard Family

CONTENTS

[Lewis DeVelling Portraits]

CONTAINER

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 3

[May (Ballard) DeVelling, portraits]

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 4

[Lewis and May (Ballard) DeVelling, photographs]

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 5

[Photograph Album 1, family photographs,
Photograph Album 2, baby pictures of Ellen and
family]

Album Storage,
PAC

[Lewis DeVelling Family]

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 6

[DeVelling-Ballard family members]

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 7

[Lewis DeVelling Residence (3842 Ruckle?)]

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 8

[Helen Irene DeVelling, ca. 1909]

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 9

Portrait of Helen DeVelling by J. Lincoln Smith,
Zanesville, Ohio, ca. 1909.

OVA Photographs,
Folder 1

[Helen Irene DeVelling, ca. 1910–ca. 1930
photographs]

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 10

Certificate from Memorial Presbyterian School,
issued to Helen DeVelling in 1913 for promotion to
Primary level of religious education

Manuscript Collections:
OM 0412, Folder 2

[Helen Irene DeVelling, ca. 1920s–ca. 1930s
portraits]

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 11

[Fairfield Meeting House, views of cemetery. Ballard
family include snapshots of the Fairfield Meeting House,
near the Ballard home at Fairfield (now Oakland),
Indiana.]

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 12

Music book with popular songs written in pencil by
Helen DeVelling

Manuscript Collections:
Box 1, Folder 3

[Arsenal Technical High School, group portrait
graduating class, ca. 1925]

OVA Photographs,
Folder 2

Arsenal Cannon. Indianapolis, Ind. : Arsenal
Technical High School, 1925

[Memorial Presbyterian Church scrapbook for Lewis
DeVelling's retirement

Series 3: May (Ballard) DeVelling

CONTENTS

Lewis and May Ballard DeVelling, correspondence,
1909, 1924, 1933

[Camp Fire Girls, photograph album]

[Camp Fire Girls, index cards and cotton badge]

[Ballard Genealogy, 1 of 6]

[Ballard Genealogy, 2 of 6]

[Ballard Genealogy, 3 of 6]

[Ballard Genealogy, 4 of 6]

[Ballard Genealogy, 5 of 6]

[Ballard Genealogy, 6 of 6]

History of the Shidler Family, by Harry W. Shideler,
Girard, Kansas, 1931.

*Old Homesteads and Historic Buildings Genealogy
and Family Lore*. Manhattan Chapter N.S.D.A.E.,
New York City [Ballard homes cited]

Series 4: Helen (DeVelling) Miller

CONTENTS

[Butler University Women] [1 of 2]

[Butler University Women] [2 of 2]

Printed Collections:
LD7501 .I4649 A77

Manuscript Collections:
Box 1, Folder 4

CONTAINER

Manuscript Collections:
Box 1, Folder 5

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 13

Manuscript Collections:
Box 1, Folder 6

Manuscript Collections:
Box 1, Folder 7

Manuscript Collections:
Box 1, Folder 8

Manuscript Collections:
Box 1, Folder 9

Manuscript Collections:
Box 1, Folder 10

Manuscript Collections:
Box 1, Folder 11

Manuscript Collections:
Box 1, Folder 12

Manuscript Collections:
Box 1, Folder 13

Manuscript Collections:
Box 1, Folder 13

CONTAINER

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 14

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 15

[Clippings of society activities of Helen DeVelling and friends, 1928]

Manuscript Collections:
Box 1, Folder 26

[Helen DeVelling, portraits ca. 1925–1929]

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 16

The Drift: Indianapolis, Ind.: Butler University, 1927–1929

Printed Collections:
LD701 .B85

[Butler University, *Fairview Follies*, Commencement, and Baccalaureate programs 1928–1929]

Manuscript Collections:
Box 1, Folder 14

[Alpha Tau Sorority, 1927–1928] [1 of 2]

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 17

[Alpha Tau Sorority, 1940] [2 of 2]

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 18

[Alpha Tau Sorority printed items, 1975–1976]

Manuscript Collections:
Box 1, Folder 15

[Helen (DeVelling) Miller, ca. 1975, Alpha Tau Sorority photograph]

Color Photographs,
Folder 1

[Butler University printed items, 1954, 1979]

Manuscript Collections:
Box 1, Folder 16

[Helen DeVelling, ca. 1942–ca. 1950, photographs]

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 19

[Helen DeVelling, ca. 1942–ca. 1950, certificate issued to Helen (DeVelling) Miller for completing standard course in Red Cross home nursing, article in *Indianapolis Star*, “Hobby Takes Control”, on jewelry making.]

Manuscript Collections:
Box 1, Folder 17

[Clippings of Helen (DeVelling) Miller’s society activities from ca. 1940–ca. 1962]

Manuscript Collections,
Box 1, Folder 26

[United Presbyterian Church, certificate and ordination vows, 1967]

Manuscript Collections:
Box 1, Folder 18

Series 5: Frank Miller

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[Frank Miller, ca. 1902–1912]

CONTAINER

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 20

[Frank Miller, ca. 1936–ca. 1950]

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 21

[Frank and Curtis Miller]

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 22

[Connersville High School Class of 1919]	Photographs, Box 1, Folder 23
[Connersville High School Class of 1919]	Color Photographs, Folder 1
[Connersville High School Class of 1919, fiftieth class reunion program]	Manuscript Collections: Box 1, Folder 19
[Connersville High School Class of 1919, fiftieth class reunion article]	Manuscript Collections: Box 1, Folder 26
[Selective Service: Registration Certificate 1942, Notice of Classification 1944]	Manuscript Collections: Box 1, Folder 20
[Purdue Alumni Association, postcard re. 25 th anniversary 1950, Certificate of Membership in Purdue Alumni Association 1976]	Manuscript Collections: Box 1, Folder 21
[Phi Delta Theta, 1922–1972]	Manuscript Collections: Box 1, Folder 22
[Newsletter <i>Banner Breezes</i> issued by Banner-Whitehall Co., Vol. 1, No. 1 April 1958]	Manuscript Collections: OM 0412, Folder 3
[United Presbyterian Church, Certificate of Ordination, 1964]	Manuscript Collections: Box 1, Folder 23
[Murat Temple, 1954, 1978]	Manuscript Collections: Box 1, Folder 24

Series 6: Frank and Helen (DeVelling) Miller

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[Frank and Helen (DeVelling) Miller, wedding portrait]
[Frank and Helen (DeVelling) Miller, bride and bridesmaids]
[Clippings announcing engagement and wedding of Frank and Helen (DeVelling) Miller]
[Frank and Helen (DeVelling) Miller, ca. 1945–ca. 1960s]
[Frank and Helen (DeVelling) Miller, ca. 1980, ca. 1986]
[Certificates of Merit]
[Riviera Social Club, membership brochure with photographs]

CONTAINER

OVA Photographs, Folder 3
OVA Photographs, Folder 4
Manuscript Collections: Box 1, Folder 26
Photographs, Box 2, Folder 1
Color Photographs, Folder 1
Manuscript Collections: Box 1, Folder 25
Color Photographs, Folder 1

[5302 Central Avenue, interior and exterior views]	Photographs, Box 2, Folder 2
[5302 Central Avenue, Frank and Helen on their steps]	Color Photographs, Folder 1
[Correspondence, post cards from 1935, 1939]	Photographs, Box 2, Folder 3
[Family Friends]	Photographs, Box 2, Folder 4
Potawatomi [Potawatomi] 1929–30	Photographs, Box 2, Folder 5
Potawatomi [Potawatomi] [1942]	Photographs, Box 2, Folder 6
Potawatomi [Potawatomi] 1945	Photographs, Box 2, Folder 7
Potawatomi [Potawatomi] 1947	Photographs, Box 2, Folder 8
1944 Spring Mill [State Park]	Photographs, Box 2, Folder 9

Series 7: Miller Family Farm

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[Certificate of Register for sale of public lands to Peter Miller at Brookville, Indiana, 10 Dec. 1821, signed by President James Monroe]
[Certificate of Register for sale of public lands to Peter Miller at Brookville, Indiana, 10 Dec. 1821, signed by President James Monroe]
[Certificate of Register for sale of public lands to Peter Miller at Brookville, Indiana, 15 April 1823, signed by President James Monroe]
[Indenture between Jacob Stuart and his wife Mary Thompson Stuart and Charles W. Miller and his wife Rhoda Thompson Miller, 26 Aug. 1846]
[Indenture between John Thompson and Michael Miller, 11 May 1847]
[Indenture between Peter Miller and Charles Miller, 31 December 1852]

CONTAINER

Manuscript Collections: OM 0412, Folder 4
Manuscript Collections: OM 0412, Folder 5
Manuscript Collections: OM 0412, Folder 6
Manuscript Collections: OM 0412, Folder 7
Manuscript Collections: OM 0412, Folder 8
Manuscript Collections: OM 0412, Folder 9

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://157.91.92.2/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P 0342).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.