

Collection #
SC 3115
OM 0589

HOBBS FAMILY COLLECTION, 1870S–CA 1970

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Processed by

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 manuscript folders, 1 OM folder, 1 photograph box, 1 color photograph folder, 1 graphics folder, 1 OVB graphics folder

COLLECTION DATES: 1870s–ca. 1970

PROVENANCE: Robert A. Stevens, North Miami Beach, Florida

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2011.0151

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John Hobbs (1801–75) was born in Xenia County, Ohio to Frederick and Sarah Hobbs. Around 1830, he relocated to Indiana, eventually owning a farm near Julietta (now on the east side of Indianapolis). According to the family’s oral tradition, the farm included fruit trees that had been planted by John Chapman (“Johnny Appleseed”). Hobbs married three times, and had a total of fourteen children. In 1838 he married his third wife, Ruth Draydon Wilson (1825–99). She was born in Maysville, Kentucky, the eleventh of fourteen children. Together they had three children: James Wilson (1860–94), John Nelson (1862–1926), and Sarah Ellen (1867–1943), who was called Ella.

As a young man, James Wilson Hobbs worked as both a teacher and a farmer, but died at the age of 34. Ella Hobbs married George Melvin Denny and had one daughter, Edna.

John Nelson Hobbs married Agnes Smith in March 1889, and a few months later began working as a postal carrier, a job he held for forty years. They had two children, Ruth Agnes (b. 1892) and John Russell (1901–25). He was called Russell, and died from polio as a young man. Ruth Agnes served as either a nurse or nurse’s assistant during the First World War. In 1920, she married Hershel Haynes, an Indianapolis grocer and WWI veteran. They did not have any children. In 1928, the Hayneses moved to Gainesville, Florida, where they opened a car dealership and sold real estate.

Sources:

Collection Materials

Indiana Marriage Records

United States Census Records

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains documents and photographs related to the Hobbs family of Marion County. Series one is devoted to manuscripts and other family papers, including a school certificate, a Masonic certificate, and several obituary clippings. Also included is a line drawing by Ella Hobbs of her brother James Wilson Hobbs. The most informative document is the typed manuscript "Chapter Two: The Hobbs Family," which consists of eleven pages of genealogy and recollections, plus eight pages of reproduced images with extensive captions. Reproduced within the document are several family letters and the text of John Hobbs' will.

Series two comprises approximately 125 photographs. They were categorized by the collection's donor, and several folders include typed paper strips identifying the subject matter. Roughly half of the photographs are individual portraits, and half are family snapshots. The snapshots feature Indianapolis locations such Military Park, Fall Creek, and White River. One photograph shows a distant view of the old White City amusement park (now Broad Ripple Park) from White River. Events depicted include family gatherings, vacations, informal excursions, and mundane happenings around the house. Ruth Hobbs Haynes is the most frequently featured family member in the photographs. She and her family appear to have been fun-loving and easygoing; they appear in amateur theatricals, ride donkeys, and take boating trips on the river. The photographs would be of interest to anyone researching Hobbes or Haynes family history, or looking for images of early 20th century leisure activities.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Family Papers

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Hobbs Family Documents and Clippings, ca. 1870s–1946	Folder 1 of 2
John Nelson Hobbs Masonic Certificate, ca. 1929	OM 0589
“Chapter Two: The Hobbs Family” typed manuscript, not dated	Folder 2 of 2
Sarah Ellen “Ella” Hobbes, Drawing of James Wilson Hobbs, not dated	OVB Graphics Folder 1 of 1
Indianapolis Postcards, not dated	Graphics Folder 1 of 1

Series 2: Family Photographs

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Hobbs Family Photographs, ca. 1870s–80s	Box 1, Folder 1
Hobbs-Haynes Family Photographs, ca. 1905–1930s	Box 1, Folder 2
James Wilson Hobbs, ca. late 1880s–1894	Box 1, Folder 3
John Nelson Hobbs, ca. 1890–1930s	Box 1, Folder 4
Agnes Estella Smith Hobbs, ca. 1890–1950	Box 1, Folder 5
John Nelson Hobbs and Agnes Smith Hobbs, ca. 1910–37	Box 1, Folder 6
(John) Russell Hobbs, ca. 1906–25	Box 1, Folder 7
Ruth Agnes Hobbs Haynes, ca. 1894–1920	Box 1, Folder 8
Hershel and Ruth Hobbs Haynes, 1919–ca. 1920s	Box 1, Folder 9
WWI Personnel, ca. 1917	Box 1, Folder 10
College Ave. After Snow, ca. 1918	Box 1, Folder 11

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://opac.indianahistory.org/>
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, SC 3115).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.