

JULIET OTT SNOWDEN COLLECTION, 1836-1914

Collection #
M 0446

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Processed by
Charles Latham
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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 manuscript box
COLLECTION DATES:	1836-1914
PROVENANCE:	Estate of Juliet Ott Snowden, through Cynthia Snowden, Indianapolis IN, 15 April 1986
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
RELATED HOLDINGS:	see card catalog for references to Rockville, Indiana; and to James Whitcomb Riley, especially M 0240
ACCESSION NUMBER:	1986.0301

HISTORICAL SKETCH

This collection came from the estate of Juliet Ott Snowden, of Rockville, Indiana. All items have a connection with Rockville or Parke County. Juliet Strauss was probably a relative of Mrs. Snowden.

Juliet Ott Snowden (1913-1987) was born in Rockville, the daughter of Claude and Marcia Strouse. She attended Indiana State University and Indiana University. In 1936 she married John Wayne Snowden, and they had four children. She ran a gift shop from 1953 to 1960. She published three books: *Legends and Lore of Parke County* (Clinton, Indiana, 1967); *Covered Bridges of Parke County* (Centralia, Illinois, 1969); and *Covered Bridge Guide Book* (Centralia, 1970).

Juliet Virginia Humphries Strauss (1863-1918) was born in Rockville, Indiana, the daughter of William and Susan Humphries. She received her education in local schools. In 1881 she married Isaac Strause (also spelled Strouse), editor and publisher of the *Rockville Tribune* (she spelled his name in the original German).

Mrs. Strauss taught school, and contributed to the *Indianapolis Journal* in a column entitled "Squibs and Sayings." In 1908 she began "The Country Contributor" column in the *Indianapolis News*, and also wrote "The Ideals of a Plain Country Woman" for the *Woman's Home Companion* and the *Ladies Home Journal*. She also lectured, and served as associate editor of her husband's newspaper.

William Youd Allen (1805-1885) graduated from Center College in Kentucky, and in 1836 was a student at Princeton Theological Seminary (Presbyterian) in New Jersey. Between 1836 and 1842 he preached along the Gulf Coast, spending some time in New Orleans. In 1840 he helped found the Brassos Presbytery of his church in Texas-- the first presbytery in what was then an independent nation. By 1842 he had returned to his father's home in Rockville and set out again to preach in Kentucky. In 1846 he returned to Rockville to become pastor of the First Presbyterian Church (Old School) there. He retired in 1862, but was still available to read the scripture at the memorial service for President Garfield in 1881 and to conduct the funeral of Catherine Walker in 1883.

Sources: Thompson, *Indiana Authors and Their Books*, 363 (Snowden)
Banta, *Indiana Authors and Their Books*, 308 (Strauss)
Beckwith, *History of Parke County* (1880), 92-112 (Allen)
History of Parke County (1913), 91, 157 (Allen)
Strouse, *Centennial Memorial of Parke County* (1916), 103, 109 (Allen)

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection, filling one manuscript box, contains correspondence, minutes, diaries, historical essays, and an autograph book, dated 1836-1914. It is arranged chronologically.

Folder 1 contains a notebook with records of a company that laid out a west addition to Rockville, Indiana, in 1836.

In Folder 2 is the diary of the Rev. William Y. Allen for the years 1836-1842, when he was preaching and traveling along the Gulf Coast.

Folder 3 contains a typed transcript of the 1859 diary of Jane B, Catheart [Cathcart?].

In Folder 4 is an essay about "religious trance" at Bellmore, just east of Rockville, about 1872.

Folder 5 contains the autograph book of Rosa [Meacham?] of Rockville. The autographs, dated 1889-1891, seem to be those of grade-school-age writers.

Folder 6 contains the minutes of a meeting of the Parke County Historical Society held 14 May 1890.

In Folder 7 is an undated account by Henry Simmons of early days in Rockville.

Folders 8-9 contain letters 1905-1914 from James Whitcomb Riley to Juliet Strauss. In his typical whimsical style,

Riley writes in complimentary terms about Mrs. Strauss's literary work.

FOLDER LISTING

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Proceedings of West Addition to Rockville Company 1836
2	Diary of William Y. Allen 1836-1842
3	Transcript-- diary of Jane B. [Cathcart?] 1859
4	"Religious trance at Bellmore" ca 1872
5	Rosa [Meacham?]- autograph book 1889-1891
6	Minutes-- Parke County Historical Society 5-14-1890
7	Henry Simmons, "Early Days in Parke County" n.d.
8	J. W. Riley to Juliet Strauss-- 1905-1906
9	J. W. Riley to Juliet Strauss-- 1907-1914

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](#)
2. Click on the "Local Catalog" icon.
3. Search for the collection by its call number, using the letter or letters designation and **four** digits (e.g., M 0715, SC 2234).
4. When you find the collection, go to the "Holdings" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.

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