

**Collection #  
M 1156**

**SARA CORNELIUS ALLISON  
MANUSCRIPT, CA. 1930S**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 1/2 size manuscript box

**COLLECTION DATES:** Ca. 1930s

**PROVENANCE:** Marian College per Paul G. Fox, Public Information Director, Indianapolis, 1981

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:** Original manuscript is held by Robert Summers, Fort Worth, TX

**RELATED HOLDINGS:** Latham and Walters Records, 1921-1929 (M 0550, IHS)  
James A. Allison Photograph Album, 1914-1928 (P 0429, IHS)

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 1983.0141

**NOTES:**

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Sara Cornelius Allison (1875-1938) married Indianapolis Motor Speedway cofounder and innovator/entrepreneur James Ashbury Allison (1872-1928) in 1907. (Refer to P0429 for a detailed biographical sketch of engineering magnate James A. Allison). The couple divorced twenty-one years later. Their sixty-four acre estate on Cold Springs Road in Indianapolis, named Riverdale, was constructed between 1911 and 1914. Following James' death, Sara lost a suit against James' second wife and his mother to control the property in 1928. His mother, Myra, was victorious.

Eventually the Allison Mansion was purchased in 1937 by the Sisters of St. Francis and utilized by Marian College (now Marian University). It continues to be a part of the campus.

Sources:

James A. Allison Photograph Album, 1914-1928 (P 0429, IHS)

“Sara.” *PALNI CONTENT DM Digital Collections*. Marian University Archives, 2010.

[http://replica.palni.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/mc\\_sara/id/107](http://replica.palni.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/mc_sara/id/107)

Sonnenburg, Paul, and William A. Shoenburg. *Allison: Power of Excellence, 1915–1990: Allison Gas Turbine Division, General Motors Corporation*. Malibu, CA: Coastline Publishing, 1990.

Willis, Wanda Lou. “Allison, James A.” *The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1994.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of a 338-page novel titled *Sara* by Sara Cornelius Allison. It is a semi-autobiographical retelling of Allison's married life at the Indianapolis Riverdale estate. The novel is a “behind-the-intimate-scenes” account of Sara's late ex-husband, James “Jim” Allison.

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*Sara* by Sara Cornelius Allison, 193?

CONTAINER

Folder 1

## 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, M 1156).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.