

McLean County Museum of History

Smitson-Brown Collection

Processed by
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1935-90; mostly 1946-58.
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	Donated by Howard Hallstein and his brother

Brief History

Helen Smitson (1898-1978) was the daughter of David C. Smitson (1860-1940) and Mary Elizabeth Brown Smitson (1859-1925). Helen had two older sisters Laura Jane (1883-1971), who married Dr. Charles P. Wilson, and Nellie (1888-1969), who first married Julius Hartung and then later Fred Patterson. Mary Elizabeth Brown was the daughter of Louisa Franklin, first married to Mr. Brown and then to Jared D. Franklin. D.C. Smitson lived in Hudson for several years until he and his family moved to Normal. D.C Smitson was an active in local politics serving as a Normal town council member and health officer.

Scope

Most of the items in the collection involve Mr. and Mrs. D.C. Smitson and their children Helen, Laura, and Nellie. The collection includes correspondence of Smitson family members, family documents such as cemetery plot deeds, marriage certificates, and wills plus several personal notebooks from the family. Other folders include Abraham Lincoln postcards, Laura's paintings, etc.

Box and Folder Inventory

Loose Items:

Green Keepsake notepad to Bertie Campbell from her teacher Mabel Thomas containing goodbyes from classmates, 1879-1880.

Black "Central City Chemical" notepad used by D.C. Smitson.

Children's book from a teacher called "The Little Traveler" about a little girl named Janet and the different kinds of people she met while traveling in America.

"Bridal Memories" book belonging to Nellie Smitson.

Notebook of Helen Smitson containing a day to day break down of what she did on her road trip to California with sister, Laura, and brother-in-law Dr. Wilson, 1924.

Small black "Diary" belonging to Helen Smitson for year of 1918.

Small black Bible published by Lippincott, Gramba, & Co., 1854.

Black "The Christian Hymn Book" belonging to Harder Smith, published by Chase & Hall Publishers, 1875.

Treasured Memories" book from Ivan R. Stubblefield Funeral Home containing list of friends who called, sympathy card, envelope of floral cards from funeral.

Folder 1: Correspondence

- 1.1 Postcard from Bill at MO to Gordon Brooks at Atlanta, IL about when he will be in IL, 13 Sept 1899.
- 1.2 Alice Gilroy at West Hollywood, CA to Helen Smitson at Normal, IL discussing rain, caring for a baby during Christmas, and emptying cesspool in yard, 15 Feb 1926, 3pp.
- 1.3 Mrs. C.R. Miller at Bellflower, CA to Helen Smitson thanking her for visiting, attached Easter Card, 21 March 1926.

- 1.4 From Helen and Laura Jane at Sherman, CA to Mr. & Mrs. D.C. Smitson at Normal, IL (from Helen) thanking for the money they received, discussing their time in CA.; (from Laura Jane) concerning her new house, 5 April 1925, total 3pp.
- 1.5 V.G. Johnson (uncle) at Bellville, IL to Helen Smitson discussing weather, family, and his farm, 23 Oct 1915.
- 1.6 Helen Smitson at Sherman, CA to Mr. & Mrs. D.C. Smitson thanking for the present she received, discussing Christmas, and things she has spent money on, 27 Dec 1924.
- 1.7 Mary at Bellville, IL to Mrs. D.C. Smitson discussing the health of family, asking her to visit soon, 16 June 1925, 2pp.
- 1.8 Helen Smitson at Sherman, CA to Mr. & Mrs. D.C. Smitson discussing going to the fair, a big dinner she cooked, and her time in CA, 20 Oct 1924, 4pp.
- 1.9 Mrs. L.L. Brown and daughter at E. Las Vegas, NM to Mr. D.C. Smitson asking if they are going to visit this summer, 2pp.
- 1.10 Mae Veach at Carlock, IL to Helen Smitson at Harlowton, MT discussing Nellie's birthday, back of letter to John asking to write her back, 8 July 1925.
- 1.11 V.G. Johnson at Bellville, IL to Helen Smitson discussing the effect of the weather on the corn and a government aviation field built by his home, 5 Dec 1917, 2pp.
- 1.12 To Helen Smitson at Harlowton, MT discussing hot weather, crops, and Nellie, 2 July 1925, 2pp.
- 1.13 Roe E. Taylor at Hudson, IL to D.C. Smitson enclosing a check for Stanley finishing hauling his oats, 25 May 1926.
- 1.14 Helen Smitson at Eagle Point, OR to Mr. & Mrs. D.C. Smitson discussing a package she sent driving through the woods and seeing deer and a bear.
- 1.15 Mrs. D.C. Smitson to Helen Smitson at Hollywood, CA discussing Christmas day plans, presents, and cold weather, 25 Dec 1924
- 1.16 V.G. Johnson at Bellville, IL to the Smitson's discussing how many people have been dying from poor health, a tornado that destroyed Mt. Vernon, IL, 5 March 1988.
- 1.17 4th page of letter about a box of clothes being sent home from Helen Smitson?.

Folder 2: Park Hill Cemetery

- 2.1 Park Hill agreement with D.C. Smitson for two compartments in the mausoleum, 29 July 1925.
- 2.2 Contract between Park Hill and Helen Smitson for mausoleum space, 24 Sept 1974.
- 2.3 Deed for crypt Sec. E, Tier 24-25, Elevation 3 to Helen Smith at Park Hill Cemetery, 15 June 1976.
- 2.4 Deed to crypt in Sec. Chapel Corridor, Tier C, Elevation to Helen Smitson at Park Hill Cemetery, 11 June 1969.
- 2.5 Deed for two crypts purchased by D.C Smitson at Park Hill, 20 Jan 1926.
- 2.6 By-Laws of Park Hill Mausoleum.

Folder 3: Family Documents

- 3.1 Letters of Guardianship for Louisa Franklin for children Hardin J. Brown and Mary E. Brown, May 1874.
- 3.2 Marriage Agreement between David C. Smitson and Mary Elizabeth Brown, 19 Sept 1882.

- 3.3 Release of Trust Deed for Hudson Burr to Jared D. Franklin, 23 April 1874.
- 3.4 Last Will and Testament of Jared Franklin leaving full control to his wife Louisa Franklin, attached legal documents, 1896, 3pp.
- 3.5 Marriage Certificate between Julius Hartung and Nellie Smitson, 22 November 1921.
- 3.6 Agreement between Rueben J. Brown and Jared D. Franklin for a tract land from Brown, 21 February 1852.
- 3.7 Photocopy of Marriage Certificate between David C. Smitson and Mary Elizabeth Brown, 19 Sept 1882, 2 copies.
- 3.8 Photocopy of family record of Marriages listing D.C. and Elizabeth Smitson.
- 3.9 Photocopy of family record of births listing the children of D.C. and Elizabeth Smitson, 2 copies.
- 3.10 Illinois Pupils Reading Circle diploma to Helen Smitson for completing a reading course, 25 May 1910.
- 3.11 Rebekah State Assembly of Illinois of the Independent order of Odd Fellows certification of Helen Smitson as a delegate to the State Assembly, 17 Jan 1930.
- 3.12 County Superintendent's Certificate to Helen Smitson for passing the 2nd grade, 28 Aug 1912.

Folder 4: Obituaries/News Articles

- 4.1 Louisa Franklin , n.d
- 4.2 Laura Jane Wilson (Smitson), 2 Dec 1971, 3 obituaries.
- 4.3 Nellie Patterson (Smitson), 3 Mar 1969.
- 4.4 James Smitson, Nov 11.
- 4.5 C.P. Wilson, 10 Feb 1974.
- 4.6 D.C. Smitson, 4 Feb, 1940, 5 obituaries.
- 4.7 Helen Smitson, 1 Oct 1978.
- 4.8 Mary Elizabeth Brown Smitson, 22 July 1925.
- 4.9 Violet McCormick, n.d.
- 4.10 Nancy McNeil Plummer, nd.
- 4.11 Naomi Campbell, n.d, includes funeral notice.
- 4.12 "Women Observes 100th Birthday" article.
- 4.13 "Protection for the Dead" advertisement for Park Hill Cemetery.
- 4.14 "Cancer Cure Is Shown" article.
- 4.15 "Sermon to young men" article.
- 4.16 Photocopies of obituaries, 2pp.

Folder 5: Dr. C.P. Wilson

- 5.1 Letter about a surgery written in a comedic fashion.
- 5.2 "Mothers Apron" poem by unknown author, 2 copies
- 5.3 "I han't Dead Yet" poem by a Pasadena women, 2 copies.
- 5.4 "Who Will Take Care of Grandma", 2 copies.
- 5.5 "What Is A Wife?" peom by May Bishop.
- 5.6 "The World Is Mine" poem by Dot Aaron, 2 copies.
- 5.7 "A Game Guys Prayer" from *Chaplain's Digest*.
- 5.8 Christmas Greeting Card from Dr. Wilson's practice.
- 5.9 "There isn't anything more boring..." by Clarence D. Brown.

Folder 6: Laura Smitson Drawings

Various nature based water-color drawings done Laura Smitson in Spring 1898.

Folder 7: Lincoln

- 7.1 Picture of drawing of Abraham Lincoln by J.O. Merrell.
- 7.2 Postcard of Lincoln statue at Portland, Oregon.
- 7.3 Postcard of Lincoln statue at Springfield, IL, photo by Andrew O'Conner
- 7.4 Postcard of Lincoln Monument at Lincoln, Nebraska.
- 7.5 Postcard from Art Institute of Chicago of Lincoln Statue at Lincoln, Nebraska, 2 copies.
- 7.6 Copy of photograph of a younger Lincoln.
- 7.7 Postcard of Lincoln Park statue in Chicago, IL, 2 copies.
- 7.8 Copy of drawing of Lincoln Homestead by Stella MacLean.
- 7.9 Copy of photo of log cabin where Lincoln was born.
- 7.10 Copy of photo of Lincoln Homestead.

Folder 8: Miscellaneous

- 8.1 Howard Hallstein to Bill Kemp about information on the Smitson/Brown family, 1 Jan 2005.
- 8.2 Photocopy of front cover of Holy Bible given to Mary Elizabeth Brown from her mother.
- 8.3 Photocopy of *History of Woodford County* pp 458-59, pp.658-59.
- 8.4 Notes on Brown/Franklin family members from a family photo album.
- 8.5 "Brown-Smitson" notes about history of where family members were from/resided, collection donated by Howard Hallstein and his brother.
- 8.6 Handwritten list of names with (possibly) birth and death years.
- 8.7 "First Christian Church Bulletin" in-memoriam for James H. Gilliland, 1912.
- 8.8 Copy of painting of Native Americans settlement with a U.S fort in the background.
- 8.9 Copy of painting of Native Americans killing a buffalo.
- 8.10 "Best Christmas Wishes" card.
- 8.11 Remembrance card for death Mrs. D.C. Smitson (Mary Elizabeth Brown).
- 8.12 "A Valentine to my Friend" card.
- 8.13 Mary M. Johnson calling card.
- 8.14 Small "True Love" card with red flowers and windmill.