

**Collection #**  
**M 1253**

## **BROWN FAMILY COLLECTION, 1854-1977**

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Processed by

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 manuscript boxes, 1 photo boxes

COLLECTION DATES: 1854-1977

PROVENANCE: Carol Hite Andersen, Arlington Heights, IL, November 30, 2015

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Collection M 0789, BV 3460–3468: Lorenzo Dow Brown Journals and Transcriptions

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2015.0352

NOTES:

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Lorenzo Dow Brown was born on 7 August 1839 in Montmorenci, Tippecanoe County, Indiana. He was the fourth and last child of Mary and Michael Brown. His siblings were two brothers, Simon and Wesley, and a sister, Sarah E. (born in 1837). Before his birth, Lorenzo's parents had migrated 800 miles from Virginia to Montmorenci, where they owned a farm of over 160 acres. Lorenzo married Mary Elizabeth Robinson in 1861 and had eight children, two of whom died at birth. The others were John (1862-1933), Thaddeus Stevens (1866-1954), Mary June (1870-1898), May Lily (1874-1960), Elizabeth Rebecca (1877-1948), and Edith (1879-1962). Lorenzo Dow Brown lived in Montmorenci until 1892, when he and his family moved to Elkhart, Elkhart County, Indiana. Brown died at the age of 60 in Elkhart, on 16 September 1899. His wife Mary died in Elkhart on 15 September 1902. John Brown married Fanny Amelia West on July 21, 1901 and had 7 children: Ruth June, John West, Calton Farwell, Edith Rowcliff, Frances Marion, Bessie Evangeline, and Raymond Howard. Ruth June Brown went on to marry Venable Eaton Johnston on August 28, 1921 and they had three children: Orlin, Virginia Ardy, and Katheryn Eaton. Thaddeus Brown never married. Mary June Brown became a doctor but died at the age of 28 of tuberculosis. May Lily married Enos Hite on October 12, 1897 and had two children: John and Marion. Marion's daughter Carol Hite Andersen donated this collection. Elizabeth Rebecca "Bessie" married Clifford Mathias on April 27, 1897 and they had two children: Paul C. and Thaddeus B. Paul married Clara Baker and Thaddeus married Miriam Elder. Edith married William Melvin Wilson on August 20, 1912. He came to the marriage with one child, Berkley Wilson, who had been born to his first wife, Estella Presnell. Estella died a few days after Berkley's birth. Edith and William had no children together.

### Sources:

Information in the collection, specifically the biographical sketches of family members written by Carol Andersen.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains information relating to the Brown Family and their descendents. Due to the varying types of documents and materials in this collection, separate series for this family have been created.

The collection is organized into three series:

### **Series One: Family Biographical Information**

Series one contains biographical documents on the immediate family members; including birth certificates, land deeds, marriage and death certificates, and photocopies of individual pictures. This includes Lorenzo and wife Mary, all of their children, and Ruth June Brown Johnston. There is information about Leoni College, where Lorenzo Brown attended. There is a transcription of a referendum book that belonged to Lorenzo Brown. Also included is a copy of May Lily's autograph book, photocopies of pictures of the family gravesites, maps and information of the towns they lived in, and cards that were sent by family members.

### **Series Two: Correspondence**

Series two contains letters written by V.E. Johnston during WWI, letters from Ruth June Brown to V.E. Johnston when they were dating, and letters from Mary Brown, John Brown, and Fanny Brown. The majority of this series are letters from 1952 - 1977 between Lily May Hite (Brown) and Ruth June Brown Johnston about the family history. June was very interested in genealogy and particularly the history of the Brown family. She wrote to Lily May for many years in order to compile as much information as she could.

### **Series Three: Photographs**

Series three contains professional portraits of individual family members along with group photos. There are also pictures of the gravesites, land and houses that used to be owned by the family, pillows that Edith Wilson (Brown) painted, and snapshots taken by the family. Most of the photographs have writing on the back. Copies were made of pictures where Carol Hite Andersen had taken notes on paper beside the photos and copies are placed in relevant manuscript folders of that family member.

## **SERIES CONTENTS**

### **Series 1: Family Biographical Information**

#### **CONTENTS**

#### **CONTAINER**

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Lorenzo Dow Brown Papers                          | Box 1, Folder 1  |
| Leoni College                                     | Box 1, Folder 2  |
| Transcription of L.D. Brown's Referendum Book     | Box 1, Folder 3  |
| Mary Brown (Robinson) Papers                      | Box 1, Folder 4  |
| John Brown Papers                                 | Box 1, Folder 5  |
| Thaddeus Steven Brown Papers                      | Box 1, Folder 6  |
| Mary June Brown Papers                            | Box 1, Folder 7  |
| May Lily Hite (Brown) Papers                      | Box 1, Folder 8  |
| May Lily Brown Autograph Book                     | Box 1, Folder 9  |
| Elizabeth Rebecca "Bessie" Mathias (Brown) Papers | Box 1, Folder 10 |
| Edith Wilson (Brown) Papers                       | Box 1, Folder 11 |
| Ruth June Brown Johnston Papers                   | Box 1, Folder 12 |
| Family Gravesites                                 | Box 1, Folder 13 |
| Maps  | Box 1, Folder 14 |
| Montmorenci/Shelby Township Information           | Box 1, Folder 15 |
| Family Greeting Cards                             | Box 1, Folder 16 |

## **Series 2: Correspondence**

### **CONTENTS**

Letters from Mary Brown (Robinson)

Letters from John Brown to wife, Fanny

Letters from/to Fanny Brown (West)

Ruth June Brown Letters to V.E. Johnston

WWI Letters from V.E. Johnston to Family

Letters to Ruth June and V.E. Johnston

Letters from/to Lily May Hite (Brown): 1915 - 1946

Misc. Letters

Information on Following Letters

Genealogy Letters: 1952 - 1953

Genealogy Letters: Jan.  
- June, 1954

Genealogy Letters: July - Dec., 1954

Genealogy Letters: Jan. - June, 1955

Genealogy Letters: July - Sept., 1955

Genealogy Letters: Oct. - Dec., 1955

Genealogy Letters: Jan. - June, 1956

Genealogy Letters: Jan. - June, 1957

Genealogy Letters: July - Dec., 1957

Genealogy Letters: 1958 - 1977

### **CONTAINER**

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Box 1, Folder 18

Box 1, Folder 19

Box 1, Folder 20

Box 1, Folder 21

Box 2, Folder 1

Box 2, Folder 2

Box 2, Folder 3

Box 2, Folder 4

Box 2, Folder 5

Box 2, Folder 6

Box 2, Folder 7

Box 2, Folder 8

Box 2, Folder 9

Box 2, Folder 10

Box 2, Folder 11

Box 3, Folder 1

Box 3, Folder 2

Box 3, Folder 3

### **Series 3: Photographs**

#### **CONTENTS**

Lorenzo Dow Brown Portraits

Mary Brown (Robinson) Portraits

John Brown Portrait

Thaddeus Brown Portraits

Mary June Brown Portraits

May Lily Hite (Brown) Portraits

Rebecca "Bessie" Mathias (Brown) Portraits

Edith Wilson (Brown) Portraits

Ruth June Johnston (Brown) Photos

Misc. Family Portraits

Brown Family Portraits

Misc. Snapshots

Random Pictures

Misc. House Pictures

#### **CONTAINER**

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 2

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 3

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 4

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 5

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 6

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 7

Photographs:  
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Photographs:  
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Photographs:  
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Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 11

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 12

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 13

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 14

Graves and Monuments

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 15