

Collection #
M 1353

**ESTHER E. HIRSCHY
AUTOBIOGRAPHY, CA. 1988**

Collection Information	1
Biographical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Contents	4

Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: Manuscript: 1 half-sized box

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1988

PROVENANCE: Peter C. Baldwin, Lebanon, CT

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2010.0263

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Esther E. Hirschy was born in Monroe, Adams County, Indiana on January 2, 1916, to George Hirschy (Mar. 20, 1888—June 12, 1957) and Ida Biberstine Hirschy (July 12, 1892—June 8, 1967). George's parents, Henry Hirschy (1861—1948) and Anna Bauman Hirschy (1868—1951) were both born in Switzerland, but immigrated to the United States between 1870 and 1880. They married in Adams County, Indiana, on November 13, 1885. George and Ida married on July 22, 1909, and later bought a forty-acre farm in Adams County. This farm proved too small, so they upgraded to an eighty-acre farm just a mile down the road.

Esther spent most of her life on the Hirschy farm with her seven siblings: Edna, Noah, Eli, Sylvia, Roy, Sylvan, and Chester. The children primarily spoke Swiss at home because of their grandparents, at least until they started attending school. The children attended Winchester School, a two-room school house where grades one through four were taught in one room and grades five through eight in the other.

Esther did eventually take some time away from the farm to attend college. She received her Bachelor of Science from Huntington College in Huntington, Indiana, and then her Master of Arts from Ball State University's Teacher College in Muncie, Indiana. Esther's time away was short-lived as she returned to the farm and became a teacher at Winchester School. She would later take a position as a third grade teacher at Berne Elementary School in Berne, Indiana. Teaching was Esther's passion, and she enjoyed her profession for thirty-six years until illness forced her to retire. During this illness, Esther began to write her autobiography, describing her life on the farm or, as she often referred to it, on the homestead. Esther died on May 29, 1988.

Sources:

Materials in Collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains two versions of Esther E. Hirschy's autobiography entitled "Experiences of my life". The first version is Esther's handwritten manuscript which she finished in 1988, the year she died. The manuscript describes life growing up on the farm and includes several recipes, gardening tips, and descriptions of processes such as preparing wool and making soap.

The second version of Esther's manuscript is a typed copy with photos and graphics dispersed throughout. This version was compiled in 2008 by Esther's sister, Sylvia Hirschy Bertsch, and her niece, Nancy Bertsch Kunz.

There is also a folder of photocopied photographs from the Hirschy family which primarily depicts Esther, her siblings, her parents, and her grandparents.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Handwritten: <i>Experiences of my Life</i> by Esther E. Hirschy, Table of Contents	Box 1, Folder 1
Handwritten: <i>Experiences of my Life</i> by Esther E. Hirschy, Section I: Early Childhood at the Homestead	Box 1, Folder 2
Handwritten: <i>Experiences of my Life</i> by Esther E. Hirschy, Section II: Pets on the Farm	Box 1, Folder 3
Handwritten: <i>Experiences of my Life</i> by Esther E. Hirschy, Section III: Springtime at the Homestead	Box 1, Folder 4
Handwritten: <i>Experiences of my Life</i> by Esther E. Hirschy, Section IV: Summertime on the Farm in the Country	Box 1, Folder 5
Handwritten: <i>Experiences of my Life</i> by Esther E. Hirschy, Section V: Autumn on the Farm	Box 1, Folder 6
Handwritten: <i>Experiences of my Life</i> by Esther E. Hirschy, Section VI: Wintertime in the Country	Box 1, Folder 7
Handwritten: <i>Experiences of my Life</i> by Esther E. Hirschy, Section VII: Weather	Box 1, Folder 8
Handwritten: <i>Experiences of my Life</i> by Esther E. Hirschy, Conclusion	Box 1, Folder 9
Typed: <i>Experiences of my Life</i> by Esther E. Hirschy, Table of Contents, About Author, & How-To Listing	Box 1, Folder 10
Typed: <i>Experiences of my Life</i> by Esther E. Hirschy, Section I: Early Childhood at the Homestead	Box 1, Folder 11
Typed: <i>Experiences of my Life</i> by Esther E. Hirschy, Section II: Pets on the Farm	Box 1, Folder 12
Typed: <i>Experiences of my Life</i> by Esther E. Hirschy, Section III: Springtime at the Homestead	Box 1, Folder 13
Typed: <i>Experiences of my Life</i> by Esther E. Hirschy, Section IV: Summertime on the Farm in the Country	Box 1, Folder 14

Typed: <i>Experiences of my Life</i> by Esther E. Hirschy, Section V: Autumn at the Country Homestead	Box 1, Folder 15
Typed: <i>Experiences of my Life</i> by Esther E. Hirschy, Section VI: Winter at the Country Homestead & Conclusion	Box 1, Folder 16
Adams County Census Copy, 1920	Box 1, Folder 17
Hirschy Family Photographs, Copies, ca. 1901-1955	Box 1, Folder 18