

Collection #
P 0854

**IRA A. CORRELL FAMILY
COLLECTION, CA. 1876-1978**

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March 2023

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	2 OVA box graphics, 1 photograph, 3 manuscript folders, 1 flat file folder, 1 digital scan
COLLECTION DATES:	Circa 1876-1978
PROVENANCE:	Anonymous donation, 2020
RESTRICTIONS:	None
COPYRIGHT:	
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	P0456, Indiana Limestone Collection; P0192, Ingalls Stone Co. Photographs
ACCESSION NUMBER:	2020.0173
NOTES:	

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Ira A. Correll was born in Odon, Daviess County, Indiana on 2 February 1873. The firstborn child of stonecutter George W. Correll and Rachel Ann [Wallick] Correll, Ira was born into a family of stone artisans. His great uncle Daniel Augustus 'Gus' Correll was also a stonecutter. Ira would further the family's legacy under the early tutelage of his father, co-owner of Correll & Burrell Monument Works in Odon. He later studied under Welsh sculptor David Richards and had a long correspondence with Lorado Taft.

In 1893, Ira married Bertha Estell Ragle. Their firstborn Beatrice came along in 1895. Son Ross, born in 1896, would grow to become a stonecutter, too. Three more children followed, and in 1913, the family moved to nearby Bedford, where more than 26 active mills were producing the majority of the world's building limestone. In 1914, Ira is found working at the John A. Rowe Cut Stone Company in Bedford. Ira was active in the Stone Cutters' Union at this time, and in 1914 he served on the advisory board for the local Socialist ticket. Ira's artistic talent was immediately appreciated in Bedford. In 1922 he was described as the "boss carver." When twenty-four limestone building companies in Monroe and Lawrence Counties were merged in 1926 to form the Indiana Limestone Company, Ira was named head of the sculpturing department. During this period, which Ira called the "Golden Age," he directed a cadre of over 107 highly skilled stoneworkers of both local and international origin. "They built the world in that time," he said.

When the Great Depression caused the stone mills of Bedford to go silent, Ira went with his son Ross to Austin, Texas, where the younger Correll had won a contract to do work for the Art Deco-styled County Courthouse in Chickasha Oklahoma. Work in Texas kept coming, and the Correll families settled in Austin.

A tireless worker, Ira Correll remained active into his eighties, producing works large and public, such as the Cooke County (Tex.) Centennial Monument, to small and personal, such as fireplace surrounds and hundreds of garden statues. He also took up painting as a hobby, and the inside of his home was said to be crowded with drawings and paintings he produced for sale.

Though he only signed his work when urged by the person who commissioned it, a few of the many notable examples of Ira's work are: an Abraham Lincoln statue at the city park in Odon, the original "He ain't heavy, Father, he's m'brother" statue at Boys' Town in Omaha, a copy of Da Vinci's "The Last Supper" at Forest Park Cemetery in Houston and the San Jacinto Monument in Houston, and a trio of lions for the British Embassy in Washington, DC. He also carved an unknown number of gravestones, such as the statue of 11-year-old Anise Hart at St. Peter's Cemetery in Montgomery, Indiana.

While Ira Correll passed away at the age of 91 in 1964, his legacy continued with Ross and several of his children becoming stonecutters.

Sources:

Materials in the collection

Stuckey, Clay W. *Origins of the Indiana Limestone Company*, 2016

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of materials related to Ira Correll and his immediate family. It is largely visual in nature, and the bulk of the collection is made up of drawings by Ira. Most are roses and other floral motifs, likely produced for sale. A few of the included drawings were done in brown pencil with military themes as proposals for monuments. None of these drawings are dated. Also present is a sketchbook containing drawings of biblical scenes, probably proposals for the Tidwell Bible Building at Baylor University, which Ira, Ross, and two of Ira's grandsons worked on circa 1953. One drawing of the Christian Jesus, approximately 30 inches tall and signed by Ira but also undated, is also present.

There is one photograph, or cabinet card, included. It depicts probably the George W. and Rachel Correll family, circa 1877. Two small children are with them, probably Ira at about age 4 and his brother William Richard "Dick" Correll, age 1. A hand-tinted enlargement of George and Rachel in their later years is also present.

Numerous newspaper clippings about Ira and his work have been compiled, copied, and arranged chronologically.

Lastly, the collection includes a selection of small wood carvings done by Ira, probably in the 1960s. They are faces in profile, carved in low relief. One of Abraham Lincoln and two generic Native American portraits have been mounted for wall hanging. Six smaller portraits of children and infants are unmounted.

A map of Indiana distributed by the Correll Monument Works in Odon was donated in poor condition. Preservation imaging staff scanned the portion containing the Correll advertisement, and it is available digitally.

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George W. Correll and family[?] cabinet card, circa 1876

The Odon Journal, 23 Sept. 1893 [copies]

Correll Monument Works advertisement from Indiana map, 1920

George and Rachel Correll hand-tinted enlargement, circa 1920

Forest Park Cemetery (Houston, Tex.) brochure featuring The Last Supper reproduction, circa 1936

CONTAINER

Photographs:
Folder 1

Manuscripts:
Folder 1

Digital only,
Ask for assistance.

OVA Graphics:
Box 1, Folder 9

Manuscripts:
Folder 2

Newspaper clippings about Ira Correll, 1948-1978	Manuscripts: Folder 3
Sketchbook of drawings with Biblical themes, circa 1953	OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 1
[Portrait drawings of Christ (1) and Abraham Lincoln (1), brown colored pencil]	OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 2
[Monument proposals (3), brown colored pencil]	OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 3
[Floral motifs (3), colored pencil]	OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 4
[Forest stream (1), colored pencil]	OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 5
[Roses motif (21), colored pencil]	OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 6
[Additional roses (3), colored pencil and (1) gouache painting]	OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 7
[Cowpoke with gun drawn "for Davy" (1), violet colored pencil]	OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 8
Drawing for Christ statue, n.d.	Oversize Graphics: Flat File 4-c
Artifacts: wood carvings, circa 1965	OVA Graphics: Box 2