

Collection #
M0980

NELSON FAMILY COLLECTION 1900-2007

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Processed by

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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	2 manuscript boxes, 2 color photograph boxes, 2.5 B&W photograph boxes, 2 oversized manuscript folders, one scrapbook (OVA), 1 panoramic photograph
COLLECTION DATES:	1900-2007
PROVENANCE:	Indiana Jewish Historical Society, August 2008
RESTRICTIONS:	None

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RIGHTS:**

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**ALTERNATE
FORMATS:**

**RELATED
HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION
NUMBER:**

2008.0224

NOTES:

This forms part of the Indiana Jewish Historical Society Collection (M 0743). A dissertation written by Goldnholz entitled, "The Emergence of a Jewish Community in Fort Wayne," was separated from this collection for storage reasons but is still available.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

This collection centers on the Harry and Frances Nelson family from Munster, IN, originally Gary, IN. The couple was married on June 29, 1941. They had three children, William "Billy" (b. 1946), Larry (died at age 21 in 1970), and Susie (was murdered at age 26 in 1976).

Harry was born in May 1913 to Fanny and Wilfred Nelson (b. 1871 and d. 1922). His brother was Jack Nelson (b. and his sister was Nettie Nelson (b. 1905 and d. 1922).

Frances was born in November 1919 to Irving (d. 1965) and Rae Givens (d. 1985). She had three sisters: Sylvia (Levin) (b. 1921), Zelda (Rozanski) (b. 1925), and Beatrice "Bebe" (Hirsh) (b. 1935).

Sources:

Information taken from collection materials.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Much of this collection consisted of Scrapbooks and photo albums containing images and other materials that related to the lives of the Nelson family from weddings, funerals, births, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, new homes, vacations, etc. There were also certificates that were received based on achievements, service, or donations from different members of the family among other miscellaneous manuscript materials.

Many of the photographs were taken out of albums for preservation reasons but they remain labeled and grouped in the same order as they appeared. Other photos were loose and they are organized by subject and date when available. Materials from scrapbooks were also removed for preservation reasons. They remain in order and, like the photo albums, are labeled according to the book from which they originated.

Series one: consists of manuscript materials and photographs from the scrapbooks and photo albums. The first section of this series includes the photo albums in chronological order. The second part of this series is the scrapbooks. The manuscript material is shown first in the guide followed by the photographs.

The first photo album dating from 1900-1937 contains old family photographs of both the Givens and Nelsons. There are also images of Horace Mann School, college in Wisconsin, football games, and vacations to Niagara Falls and Lake Mendota.

The second photo album dates from 1937-1941 contains photographs from Frances' college years.

The third photo album dates from 1941-1949 contains photos of Harry and Frances' honeymoon to the Smokey Mountains, football games at Wrigley Field, baseball games (these are misidentified with football team names) the first home of Harry and Frances, trips to Indiana Dunes State Park and Wisconsin, family photos, and camping trips.

The fourth album dates from 1946-1956 contains images of Bill, Larry, and Susie Nelson as children along with other family members. Also, this album includes images from camping trips and vacations (Mt. Rushmore, Yellowstone, Wisconsin Dells, and Niagara Falls).

The fifth album dates from 1949-1966 contains images from family dinners, Seder dinners, Rosh Hashanah, family homes, and school pictures.

The sixth photo album dating from 1967-1973 contains everyday family photos and photos of celebrations as well as some pictures of Larry in Vietnam.

The seventh photo album dating from 1973-1988 contains images from family reunions and other celebrations such as weddings, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, and Chanuka. Photos from family vacations to Disney, Chicago, Arizona, and Yellowstone are included. There are also images from sites from the Yom Kippur War and family gravestones.

The eighth, and last of this type of photo album, dating from 1989- contains images of vacations to Alaska and Arizona and family celebrations such as Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, a Bris, and weddings.

The last photo album contains images from the Temple Beth-el Cemetery from 1990.

The first scrapbook contains materials from the family's life up until 1957. The first part includes materials and images from Harry's family and life. Then there is some material involving Frances' family. Toward the end is material that involved both of them (from after their marriage).

The second family scrapbook covers the years 1958-1966. Included here are a number of photographs from a trip to Israel where Harry and Frances met Ben Gurion, Ben Zvi, and visited a number of culturally and religiously prominent places. Also included are some photos and materials of family events (weddings, deaths, graduations, Bar Mitzvahs, etc.)

"The Harry Nelson Family Doings" from 1965-76 contains clippings and invitations in the manuscript folders. The clippings contain information about the death of Faye Susan and Larry Nelson. There are images of Jerusalem and some family photos.

"The Harry Nelson Family Doings" from 1977-1986 includes a number of invitations to different events including Frances' surprise birthday part at the Creperie. Also included are images from the ground breaking ceremony for the Temple Beth-Israel addition.

"The Harry Nelson Family Doings" from 1987-1996 includes clippings, invitations, memorial speeches, and certificates honoring service and donations. Harry's obituary is included in these materials.

The scrapbook from 1990-1995 contains invitations to different events. These items were not organized in the scrapbook like the others had been.

The last scrapbook was made by the Fort Wayne Temple Youth Group in 1966. It remains in order but is unbound. This scrapbook is stored in an OVA box.

The remainder of the collection includes correspondence, genealogy information and family pictures, more certificates, invitations, travel plans and photographs (Wyoming and Israel), and newsletters for other congregations.

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Series 1: Scrapbooks and Photo Albums

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CONTAINER

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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, M0980).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.