

ROST FAMILY PAPERS, 1882-1898

Collection #:
M 668

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Processed By:
Paul Brockman
3 January 1996

USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 manuscript boxes

COLLECTION DATES: 1882-1898

PROVENANCE: Jerry Marver, Indianapolis, IN, 9 November 1995.

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 96.0126

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Carl L. Rost (1864-1946) was born in Friendship, Hendricks County, Indiana. After studying optometry and

watchmaking in Chicago, he moved to Columbus, Indiana where he was associated with his brother, Herman L. Rost, in the jewelry business. In the middle 1880s he operated a jewelry store in Paducah, Kentucky, for a brief time, before moving to Crawfordsville, Indiana, where he formed a partnership with a cousin under the name of Rost and Otto. Rost opened his own jewelry and optometry business in Crawfordsville in 1887, and in following year, he married Helena Roesgen of Columbus. Rost moved to Indianapolis in 1900 where he founded Carl L. Rost Diamond Merchants. He retired from the jewelry business in 1920, and sold his operation to a group who changed the name to the Rost Jewelry Company. Helena Roesgen was a teacher at North School in Bartholomew County, Indiana, in the late 1880s, prior to her marriage to Rost.

Sources: *Indianapolis News*, 10 May 1946.

History of Bartholomew County, Brant and Fuller, 1888, p. 553.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is mainly comprised of personal correspondence between Carl Rost of Crawfordsville and Helena Roesgen Rost of Columbus and later Crawfordsville. The letters span the couple's courtship in the 1880s and the time they spent apart from each other after marriage, 1888-1898. Roesgen also wrote from Chicago, New York and other cities. Most of the information is affectionate in nature but there also is mention of daily activities, local and national events and work. There also is a small amount of correspondence to Carl Rost from his brother, Herman L. Rost, and other family members from the early 1880s as well as invitations and related items from various events and newspaper clippings. Some of the correspondence from the other relatives are written in German from Friendship, Indiana, and San Francisco, California. There also is a small amount of correspondence relating to Rost's jewelry business interests. Also included are items relating to Helena's education and employment as a teacher in Bartholomew County.

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

BOX 1: Correspondence, November, 1882-June, 1887

FOLDER CONTENTS

- 1 Correspondence, November, 1882-December, 1883
- 2 Correspondence, January, 1884-October, 1884
- 3 Correspondence, January, 1885-April, 1885
- 4 Correspondence, May, 1885-August, 1885
- 5 Correspondence, September, 1885-December, 1885
- 6 Correspondence, January, 1886-February, 1886
- 7 Correspondence, March, 1886-April, 1886
- 8 Correspondence, May, 1886-June, 1886
- 9 Correspondence, July, 1886-August, 1886
- 10 Correspondence, September, 1886-October, 1886
- 11 Correspondence, November, 1886-December, 1886

12 Correspondence, January, 1887-March, 1887

13 Correspondence, April, 1887-June, 1887

BOX 2: Correspondence, July, 1887-December, 1888
FOLDER CONTENTS

1 Correspondence, July, 1887-August, 1887

2 Correspondence, September, 1887-October, 1887

3 Correspondence, November, 1887-December, 1887

4 Correspondence, January, 1888-February, 1888

5 Correspondence, March, 1888

6 Correspondence, April, 1888-May, 1888

7 Correspondence, June, 1888

8 Correspondence, July, 1888

9 Correspondence, August, 1888

10 Correspondence, September, 1888

11 Correspondence, October, 1888-December, 1888

BOX 3: Correspondence, February, 1889-October, 1898
FOLDER CONTENTS

1 Correspondence, February, 1889-July, 1889

2 Correspondence, January, 1890-September, 1890

3 Correspondence, May, 1891-November, 1891

4 Correspondence, July, 1892-October, 1892

5 Correspondence, January, 1893-July, 1893

6 Correspondence, August, 1893

7 Correspondence, September, 1893-November, 1893

8 Correspondence, January, 1894-August 9, 1894

9 Correspondence, August 10, 1894-August 31, 1894

10 Correspondence, January, 1895-October, 1895

11 Correspondence, January, 1896-April, 1896

12 Correspondence, January, 1897-October, 1897

13 Correspondence, March, 1898-October, 1898

14 Correspondence and General Items, n.d., Folder 1

15 Correspondence and General Items, n.d., Folder 2

CATALOGUING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: Rost, Carl L., 1864-1946

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Rost, Carl L., 1864-1946

Carl L. Rost Diamond Merchants

Courtship--Indiana--Crawfordsville

German Americans--Indiana--Friendship

Jewelers--Indiana--Indianapolis

Teachers--Indiana--Bartholomew County

ADDED ENTRIES: Rost, Helena Roesgen

Rost, Herman L.

END