

Collection #
M 1180
OM 0783
DVD 0692

**Timothy J. And Tracy D. Brown-Salsman
papers, 1988-2023**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box; 1 oversize manuscript folder, 1 folder color photographs; 1 DVD; digital files

COLLECTION DATES: 1988–2023

PROVENANCE: Timothy J. and Tracy D. Brown-Salsman, 2014; 2023

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2014.0287; 2023.0135

NOTES: To access digital files for the collection, please contact the Reference department prior to your visit.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

On June 26, 2014, Timothy Brown and Tracy Brown-Salsman became the first couple in Martin County, Indiana to be granted a same-sex marriage license and wed. This came during an upheaval of earlier Indiana legislation banning same-sex marriage. Indiana restricted marriage to male-female couples by statute in 1996 and, in 1997, legislation denied recognition to same-sex relationships established in other jurisdictions.

However, in 2014, a series of court decisions overturned earlier legislation. *Baskin v. Bogan* was a key lawsuit. The lawsuit challenged the state's position on granting marriage licenses to same-sex couples and it won a favorable decision in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana on June 25, 2014. However, on June 27, 2014, a stay on the decision was requested by Attorney General Greg Zoeller and granted by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. During the brief window between the *Baskin v. Bogan* decision and the Seventh Circuit stay, a number of couples, including Brown and Salsman, were granted licenses. Brown and Salsman, by 2014, had shared a nearly 26 year relationship. On June 26, 2014, the two were officially wed in the Martin County Court in Shoals, Indiana. Judge Lynne E. Ellis officiated the ceremony. The couple was the first to be granted a marriage license and wed in Martin County.

On June 28, Governor Mike Pence stated that the marriages initiated between June 25–28 should be ignored. The couple began encountering issues with the Social Security Administration Office. After their wedding, they had hoped to merge their individual last names into Brown-Salsman. However, with the granted stay, they existed within a legal gray area along with other couples married during the short June window. However, the Seventh Circuit of Appeals, upheld the *Baskin v. Bogan* decision. The court motioned for a stay of ruling until the U.S. Supreme Court could consider. The Supreme Court declined to consider an appeal on October 6, 2014. This allowed the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals to issue and implement its decision requiring Indiana to license and recognize same-sex marriages. After this decision, the couple was able to have their official name change approved by the Social Security Administration, which they did on October 7, 2014.

In addition to advocating for marriage equality, The Brown-Salsmans have been involved with AIDS activism and they continue to raise awareness and support for the LGBTQ+ community in rural Southern Indiana. To this end, they were the driving force in the first Pride celebration in Loogootee, Indiana, held on June 10th, 2023 in the town square. After the success of the event, the Loogootee PrideFest, represented by the Indiana ACLU, have been in litigation with the City of Loogootee over the Common Council's refusal to issue permits for the Pride celebration to be held on the square again in 2024.

Sources:

Materials in Collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Series One: This series contains official documents related to the marriage of Timothy J. Brown and Tracy D. Salsman. Included are copies of their social security cards after their name change, their State of Indiana Certified Marriage license, and copies of their joint tax returns. There are three versions of the marriage license reflecting corrections that had to be made.

Series Two: This series contains personal photographs and correspondence from the couple. the text and original photograph for the Brown-Salsman wedding announcement.

Series Three: This series contains the text and original photograph for the Brown-Salsman marriage as well as newspaper clippings about the marriage and the subsequent struggle to have their names changed with the Social Security Administration.

Series Four: This series contains materials related to the couple's activism for the LGBTQ+ community. Also included in this collection is a DVD showing the couple demonstrating in Washington D.C. and Indiana.

Series Five: This series contains newspaper clippings, city council meeting minutes, Loogootee PrideFest meeting minutes, digital photographs of the first organizing meeting in 2019 and the first PrideFest in 2023, a commemorative poster, stickers, and pin.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Official Documents

CONTENTS

Copy of Social Security cards reflecting name change,
Oct. 2014

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Box 1, Folder 1

Certified Marriage Licenses, Three Versions, July and
Oct. 2014

Box 1, Folder 1

First Jointly Filed Tax Refunds, Dec. 20214

Box 1, Folder 1

Series 2: Personal Memorabilia

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"Our first selfie," Timothy J. Brown and Tracy D.
Salsman, October 1988

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Color Photographs,
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"Eclipse, Public Square, Loogootee, IN", Timothy and
Tracy Brown-Salsman, 2017

Color Photographs,
Folder 1 of 1

Correspondence, Kinsey Institute, 2023

Box 1, Folder 2

Series 3: Timothy and Tracy Brown-Salsman Marriage

CONTENTS

Text for Wedding Announcement

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Box 1, Folder 3

Photograph for Wedding Announcement

Color Photographs,
Folder 1 of 1

"Letters to the Editor," Letter from Timothy J. Brown,
Loogootee Tribune, 4 July 2013

Box 1, Folder 3

Clipping, Wedding Announcement, *Greencastle
Banner*, June 2014

Box 1, Folder 3

Clipping, Wedding Announcement, *Hendricks County
Flyer*, June 2014

Box 1, Folder 3

"Couple breaks marriage barrier in Martin County,"
by Nate Smith, *Washington Times Herald*, 27 June
2014

Box 1, Folder 3

"Several couples seek marriage licenses here," by Devan Strebing, <i>Hendricks County Flyer</i> , 28 June 2014	Box 1, Folder 3
"Martin County issues first same-sex marriage license," by Jill Albright, <i>Loogootee Tribune</i> , 3 July 2014	Box 1, Folder 3
"Social Security Administration holds gay couple's name change," by Brian Seymour, <i>Indiana Daily Student</i> , 10 July 2014	Box 1, Folder 3
"Local same-sex marriages in limbo," by Nate Smith, <i>Washington Times Herald</i> , 11 July 2014	Box 1, Folder 3
Reprint of "Couple breaks marriage barrier in Martin County," by Nate Smith in <i>Tri-State Alliance News</i> , Sept. 2014	Box 1, Folder 3
"Love Felonies: Poetry on Queer Marriage in the Midwest," by Karen Heminger, August 2014	Box 1, Folder 3
<i>Life, It's Killing Me</i> , by Karen Heminger, 2014	Box 1, Folder 3
"Tribune Around the World at LGBT exhibit", <i>Loogootee Tribune</i> , 15 October 2015	Box 1, Folder 3
"June 26 Declared Marriage Equality Day in Loogootee" by Cori Lukomski, 25 June 2019	Box 1, Folder 3

Series 4: Activism

CONTENTS

Timothy and Tracy Brown-Salsman with Dr. Herbert Cushing, Indiana University Medical Center, n.d.

ICAAN Indiana Community AIDS Action Network, 1994–95 Annual Report (Includes Picture on Page 14 of Lobby Training)

Short-Term Effects of Cannabinoids on HIV-1 Viral Load, Clinical Study, 1999

"AIDSWATCH 2000, Washington D.C." *C.A.B. Quarterly Update*, June 2000

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Color Photographs, Folder 1 of 1

Box 1, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 4

DVD of Timothy and Tracy Brown-Salsman in Washington, D.C. and Indianapolis
"Lobbying in D.C." Timothy J. Brown-Salsman and Daniel E. Matro, Legislative Aid for Senator Baugh, 3 May 2005

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Clipping, "Attends AIDSWatch 2005 in DC," *The Loogootee Tribune*, 26 May 2005

Box 1, Folder 4

Series 5: Loogootee PrideFest

CONTENTS

Group photo of the first organizational meeting for House of Pride group in Loogootee, 19 July 2019

Clippings, *Martin County Journal* Coverage of Council Meetings, 2022-2023

Minutes, Loogootee Common Council and Board of Works, 2022-2023

Photographs of Loogootee PrideFest by Bobby Ellis, including candid photos of attendees, organizers, and performers, 10 June 2023 [36 images]

Photographs of Loogootee PrideFest including performances, vendors, and the "photobooth", 10 June 2023 [97 images]

Poster, Loogootee PrideFest, 10 June 2023

Correspondence, 28 July 2023

ACLU Letter to Loogootee City Attorney RE: PrideFest 2024, 1 Nov. 2023

Clippings, Loogootee PrideFest, 2023

PrideFest Promotional Materials, 2023

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