WELLER FAMILY  
PAPERS, 1861–1979

Collection Information  
Biographical Sketch  
Scope and Content Note  
Series Contents  
Cataloging Information

Processed by  
Paul Brockman  
15 June 1998  
Revised 23 January 2002  
Updated 9 March 2004

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box, 1 photograph box, 1 oversize folder

COLLECTION DATES: 1861–1979

PROVENANCE: Harry D. Weller, 6066 Garver Road, Indianapolis, IN 46220, 20
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Members of the Weller family who are mentioned prominently in the collection include Ralph C. Weller (1838–1919), Dr. James E. Weller (1874–1916), John Weller (1864–1943), and Mary Emswiler Weller (d.1928). Ralph Weller was born in Newport, New York and came to Richmond, Wayne County, Indiana, in 1859. In September 1861, he enlisted in the 11th Ohio Regiment where he served for three years until a wound he received at the battle of Mission Ridge resulted in his honorable discharge. Following his discharge, Weller spent three years in Missouri, returning to Richmond around 1867. Ralph Weller married Thirza C. Dunham in 1863 and they had five children including James E. and John L. Weller.

James E. Weller was born in Verona, Lawrence County, Kansas, was trained as a doctor and pharmacist, served as a member of the medical service in Manila, Philippine Islands during the Spanish-American War, and married Grace R. Dilks in 1903. John L. Weller was born in Richmond, Indiana, and married Mary A. Emswiler in 1898. They had two sons, Phillip K. and Harry and a daughter, Lucille. When Mary Weller died, John married his brother's widow, Grace Dilks Weller.

Sources: Information in collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Weller family records contained in the collection include the correspondence, records, and general items of Ralph C. Weller, James E. Weller, John L. Weller, Mary Emswiler Weller, Phillip K. Weller, George P. Emswiler, and Albert Emswiler. The Ralph Weller papers include his Civil War and pension records, 1861–1938. James E. Weller materials contain official correspondence and military hospital papers from Manila, Philippine Islands during the Spanish-American War including a description of his promotion to assistant hospital steward. The most voluminous portion of the collection consists of the letters (May–June 1900) of John Weller in Brooklyn, New York, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and Richmond and Norfolk, Virginia to his parents and family in Richmond, Indiana. These letters mainly describe John and Mary Weller's travels and daily activities. Other items in the collection include Mary Weller's real estate related receipts and financial records 1909–19, Phillip Weller's business receipts and news clippings, 1954–56, and news clippings regarding George P. and Albert Emswiler, 1895–1979. Also included in the papers is an 1880 diary kept by Cora L. Pearce of Williamsburg (Wayne County), Indiana, and business correspondence to Otto A. Weil of Indianapolis, 1909.
The collection also contains property and estate records pertaining to members of the Weller and Emswiler families. These items are mainly made up of indentures, wills, title abstracts, deeds, correspondence, and receipts, 1863–1945. Also included in the collection are photographs of the Weller and Emswiler families, 1870s–1950s, as well as numerous unidentified hunting and farming images from around the 1900s.

**SERIES CONTENTS**

**Series 1: Family Correspondence and Documents, 1861–1979**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
<th>CONTAINER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ralph Weller, Civil War and pension records, 1861–1938</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Weller, documents and papers, 1899–1929</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Weller, letters, 9–19 May 1900</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Weller, letters, 21–28 May 1900</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Weller, letters, 29 May–8 June 1900</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Weller, letters, 9–21 June 1900</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Weller, letters, 22–28 June 1900</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Weller, marriage certificate and memorial record, 1928, 1943</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Weller, financial records, 1909–18</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Weller, receipts, 1917–19</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Weller, real estate receipts, 1918 (1 of 3)</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Weller, real estate receipts, 1918 (2 of 3)</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Weller, real estate receipts, 1918 (3 of 3)</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Weller, real estate receipts, 1918–19</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phillip K. Weller, 1954–56</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George P. Emswiler, 1895–1979</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albert Emswiler, news clippings, n.d.</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cora L. Pearce, diary, 1880; papers, 1882–85, n.d.</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otto A. Weil, correspondence, 1909</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family correspondence, 1906–21</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history related correspondence, 1966–76</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series 2: Photographs, 1870s–1955

CONTENTS

Weller family members, ca. 1870s–1940s
Mary Weller, 1874; Maggie Weller, ca. 1870s
Emswiler family photographs, ca. 1870s
General photographs, 1910s–20s
International Order of Odd Fellows, group photograph, 20 May 1914
Harry Weller photographs, 1910s–40s
Phillip Weller and wife, ca. 1955
Hunting and family photographs, ca. 1900 (1 of 4)
Hunting and family photographs, ca. 1900 (2 of 4)
Hunting and family photographs, ca. 1900 (3 of 4)
Hunting and family photographs, ca. 1900 (4 of 4)
Gary, Indiana postcards, ca. 1910s

CONTAINER

Box 2, Folder 1
Visual Collections: Tintypes
Box 2, Folder 2
Box 2, Folder 3
Box 2, Folder 4
Visual Collections: Cirkut Photographs
Box 2, Folder 5
Box 2, Folder 6
Box 2, Folder 7
Box 2, Folder 8
Box 2, Folder 9
Box 2, Folder 10
Box 2, Folder 11

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://157.91.92.2/

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, M 0713).

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