


1-25-2012

## Volkerding Family Papers (MSS 385)

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### Recommended Citation

Folklife Archives, Manuscripts &, "Volkerding Family Papers (MSS 385)" (2012). *MSS Finding Aids*. Paper 1923.  
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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
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*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 385 VOLKERDING Family Papers**

1 ½ boxes. 17 folders. 280 items. 1891-1934. Originals or photocopies

1991.35.5

***BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE***

Herman Frederick Wilhelm Volkerding was born on 13 December 1869 in Cincinnati, Ohio. He married Mary Elizabeth Hauber in October 1891 in Louisville, Kentucky. Mary was born on 10 March 1870. Mr. Volkderding worked for John T. Barbee distillers at their corporate headquarters in Louisville; the actual distillery was located in Woodford County. He marketed the liquor across the country, and eventually became president of the distillery. When he died in 1912, it was sold to John C. Weller. The Volkerdings had eight children: George, Maried, Carl, Virginia, Herman, Dorothy, Ruth and Frederick. Frederick (died 12 July 1912) and Mary (died 19 July 1949) are buried in Louisville's Cave Hill Cemetery.

***COLLECTION NOTE***

This collection consists chiefly of letters written by Herman Volkerding to his fiancé and later wife Mary Volkerding. The first few letters are of a courtship nature; the others recount his travels across the western and southern parts of the United States where he is marketing liquor for the John T. Barbee distillers of Louisville. Most of the content relates to his desire to be at home, but he does describes in some detail hotels and amusements found in Colorado, Utah, California, Montana, Oregon and Washington state. The collection also contains a number of letters (Box 2, Folder 1) written by Kate E. Robinson, a former teacher of the Volkerding children and an adopted member of the family, who often refers to herself as "Mother." A small representation of correspondence between the children and their parents can be found in Box 1, Folders 12 & 13 and a few letters to Herman from his mother, in German, can be found Box 2, Folder 3. Wedding portraits from the Volkderings' 1891 nuptials and two family portraits can be found in Box 2, Folder 4. Volkerding ran unsuccessfully for the Louisville Board of Aldermen in 1909; he makes some interesting comments about his daughter's disappointment about not his not being able to sit as mayor of Louisville.

A sampling of the envelopes sent from various western hotels was kept and placed in Box 1, Folder 1.

**SHELF LIST**

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Volkerding Family Papers</b>	<b>1891-1912</b>	<b>203 items</b>
Folder 1	Inventory	1891-1911; n.d.	26 items
Folder 2	Letters to Mary Volkerding from Herman Volkerding	1891	2 items
Folder 3	Letters to Mary Volkerding from Herman Volkerding	1901-1902	16 items
Folder 4	Letters to Mary Volkerding from Herman Volkerding	1903-1904	7 items
Folder 5	Letters to Mary Volkerding from Herman Volkerding	1905	19 items
Folder 6	Letters to Mary Volkerding from Herman Volkerding	1906-1907	29 items
Folder 7	Letters to Mary Volkerding from Herman Volkerding	1908	9 items
Folder 8	Letters to Mary Volkerding from Herman Volkerding	1909	31 items
Folder 9	Letters to Mary Volkerding from Herman Volkerding	1910	21 items
Folder 10	Letters to Mary Volkerding from Herman Volkerding	1911	9 items
Folder 11	Letters to Mary Volkerding from Herman Volkerding	1912	11 items
Folder 12	Letters to Herman Volkerding from wife and children and letters to Mary Volkerding from children and amongst children	1901-1911; n.d.	12 items
Folder 13	Letters to Volkerding children from parents	1901-1911	11 items

<b>BOX 2</b>	<b>Volkerding Family Papers</b>	<b>1891-1934</b>	<b>77 items</b>
Folder 1	Correspondence between Kate E. Robinson and Herman and Mary Volkerding	1907-1934	46 items
Folder 2	Miscellaneous and fragments of letters	1891-1909	18 items
Folder 3	Letters to Herman Volkerding (in German) and his mother	1907-1909	8 items
Folder 4	Family photos	1891, 1906[?], ca. 1912	5 items

### ***BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD***

MSS VOLKERDING Family Papers 1891-1934  
385

Letters written chiefly by Herman Frederick Wilhelm Volkerding, of Louisville, Kentucky, to his wife Mary Elizabeth (Hauber) Volkerding while traveling as a salesman for the John T. Barbee distillers. Volkerding pines for home and describes the scenery, hotels, amusements and rail travel in the western United States.

1 ½ boxes. 17 folders. 254 items. Originals and photographs.

1991.35.5

### ***SUBJECT ANALYTICS***

Arizona – Travel and description, 1907 B1,F6  
 California – Travel and description, 1907 B1,F6  
 Character – Comments about B2,F2  
 Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company – Comments about, B1,F10  
 Civil War, 1861-1865 – Campaigns, battles, military actions – Tennessee – Chattanooga –  
 Comments about, 1909 B1,F8  
 Colorado – Travel and description B1,F3,5,13  
 Consolation B1,F8; B2,F2  
 Courtship B1,F2  
 Distilling industries – Kentucky – Relating to  
 Elections and election campaigns – Louisville – Comments about, 1909 B2,F1  
 Funeral rites and ceremonies – Relating to, 1912 B2,F1  
 German (Language) – Letters, 1907-1909 B2,F3  
 Glenwood, Colorado – Travel and description B1,F3,5  
 Hotels – Letterheads B1,F1

Indians – Comments about, 1905 B1,F5,6  
 John T. Barbee Company – Louisville – Baseball team – Mentioned B1,F8  
 Kretschmer, Marie E. (Volkerding), 1895-1980 – Letters from B1,F12  
 Letterheads – Hotels B1,F1  
 Letterheads – John T. Barbee Company - Louisville B1,F13; B2,F1  
 Lindell, Virginia (Volkerding), 1903-1989 – Letters from B1,F12  
 Marriage – Comments about B1,F2  
 Mormon Tabernacle – Salt Lake City, Utah – Comments about B1,F3  
 Mormons – Comments about B1,F3  
 Mourning stationery, 1912 B2,F1  
 Parties – Tacky party – Description B1,F12  
 Railroad travel – Comments about  
 Robinson, Kate E. – Correspondence B2,F1  
 Robinson, William J., d. 1901 – Death of, 1901 B1,F1  
 Salt Lake City, Utah – Travel and description B1,F3  
 San Francisco, California – Fire, 1905 – Mentioned, 1909 B1,F8  
 Seattle, Washington – Travel and description, 1907 B1,F6  
 Sunday School – Comments about B2,F2  
 Traveling sales personnel  
 Volkerding family – Photos B2,F4  
 Volkerding, George Martin, 1892-1954 – Correspondence B1,F12-13  
 Volkerding, H. Karl, 1899-1949 – Letter from B1,F12  
 Volkerding, Herman Frederick Wilhem, 1869-1912 - Correspondence  
 Volkerding, Herman Frederick Wilhem, 1869-1912 – Photos B2,F4  
 Volkerding, Mary Elizabeth (Hauber), 1870-1949 – Letters to  
 Volkerding, Mary Elizabeth (Hauber), 1870-1949 – Photos B2,F4  
 Washington (State) – Travel and description, 1912 B1,F11  
 Whallen, John H. – Comments about B2,F1  
 Whiskey – Relating to  
 Yellowstone National Park – Travel and description, 1905 B1,F5

**SEE or SEE ALSO**

Barbee, John T., Company

See:

John T. Barbee Company

Volkerding, Marie E., 1895-1980

See:

Kretschmer, Marie E. (Volkerding), 1895-1980

Volkerding, Virginia, 1897-1988

See:

Lindell, Virginia (Volkerding), 1897-1988

Jeffrey 01/25/2012