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Carpenter Collection (MSS 525)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
 Department of Library Special Collections
 Western Kentucky University
 Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 525 CARPENTER Collection

3 boxes. 32 folders. 185 items. 1820-1963. Originals, photographs.

1981.112.1

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

John F. Carpenter (1785-1835) and his wife Elizabeth Mustin (1792-1845) emigrated from Virginia to Kentucky in 1820. Their house and farm in Warren County, Kentucky later became the home of their son Jonathan T. Carpenter (1809-1866) and three succeeding generations of Carpenters. In 1831, Jonathan T. Carpenter married Elizabeth Dunn (Jonathan's sister Mary Ann Carpenter married Elizabeth's brother, Spencer Dunn, in 1828). The son of Jonathan T. and Elizabeth Carpenter, Luther M. Carpenter, married Sarah Eleanor Duncan in 1866. Their children included Annie May Carpenter (1870-1890), Jonathan Tinsley Carpenter (1869-1951), Florence Carpenter (1878-1946), Luther Carpenter, Jr., (1876-1950), Herbert Edgar Carpenter (1881-1965), and Mildred "Minnie" Carpenter (1867-1933). In 1888, Minnie Carpenter married James Harvey Tucker (1865-1962), the son of Dr. James Edwin Tucker and Sarah "Sallie" J. Moore. Minnie and James's daughter Mildred Tucker (1894-1994) married John Vernon Hardcastle.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection contains genealogical data, business and farm records, correspondence and other personal papers of members of the Carpenter, Tucker and Hardcastle families. The bulk of the collection consists of farm records and accounts, and some personal papers, of Jonathan T. Carpenter, his son Luther M. Carpenter, and several of Luther's children. An inventory, genealogical notes, and clippings relating to family members and the Carpenter home are in Box 1, Folder 1.

Box 1 contains genealogical data on the Carpenter, Tucker and Dunn families (Folder 2). The remainder of this box contains mostly farm and financial records of Jonathan T. Carpenter, his son Luther Carpenter, and Luther's son Jonathan T. Carpenter. Included are an account book (Folder 3) containing Jonathan T. Carpenter's tobacco accounts as well as his son Luther's expense records and contracts relating to tobacco, corn crops, land and farm labor. Also included are Luther's accounts relating to his guardianship of his underage sister Ella, and his personal journal recording weather and farm activities and giving an account of the sudden illness and death of his son George Blakey Carpenter. Other family records in or inserted later

into this volume include an 1820 deed to Luther's father John F. Carpenter, family data on the Carpenters and Tuckers, a flyer for the Pleasant Hill Academy in Oakland, Kentucky, and two medical accounts of Dr. James E. Tucker. An account book of Luther's father Jonathan T. Carpenter (Folder 4) contains farm records and miscellaneous accounts and notes, including subscriber information for the Smiths Grove Library Society, a cholera remedy, and a list of the names and ages of his slaves. An account book used by both Jonathan T. Carpenter and his son Luther (Folder 6) includes a record of an 1852 militia court of assessment listing names of persons fined. Jonathan T. Carpenter's 1864 will (Folder 7) includes bequests of slaves to his children, together with a codicil taking into account the depreciation of their value as a consequence of the "war policy of the powers that be." The business records of Luther Carpenter include farm, tobacco and estate accounts (Folders 8, 9), bank records (Folder 11), miscellaneous accounts, contracts and licenses (Folders 12, 13), and tax receipts (Folder 14). Personal correspondence of Luther Carpenter (Folder 10) includes courtship letters to his future wife Sarah "Sallie" Duncan in which he discusses the propriety of corresponding with her, describes attending a July 4th picnic, and comments on the necessity of choosing a marriage partner wisely. In an 1863 letter to Luther, his Missouri cousin Nannie Walker writes of her family and schoolteaching, and expresses dismay over the Carpenters' Union sympathies; she asks Luther's brother Spencer, serving in the Union Army, not to "shoot my southerner." The remainder of Box 1 contains farm account books (Folders 16, 17) of Luther Carpenter's son Jonathan T. Carpenter, together with invoices for his education at the Kentucky Military Institute (Folder 15).

Box 2 contains mostly materials relating to Luther Carpenter's wife, daughters Florence, Annie May ("May"), Mildred ("Minnie"), son Herbert, and members of the Tucker family. Papers of Luther's wife Sarah "Sallie" (Duncan) Carpenter (Folder 1) include letters of condolence on the death of her daughter May, a list of property allotted to her as Luther's widow, and a novelty check from her son Jonathan T. Carpenter drawn on the "Bank of Prosperity." Papers of May Carpenter (Folder 2) consist of an autograph album and letters, one from May to her sister Minnie, written while May attended Cedar Bluff College in Woodburn, Kentucky, and several to May from Virginia "Jennie" Amos, a former Cedar Bluff classmate also from Warren County. Jennie writes lively and very affectionate letters, describing her travails teaching 60 "brats" in Indiana, gossiping frankly about family and schoolmates, recounting her social activities while living with her sister and brother-in-law in Tennessee, including a women-only picnic where they removed their corsets, and speculating freely on the relationship of newly married Winfield Scott Claypool and Bettie Tucker, the sister-in-law of May's sister Minnie. Minnie (Carpenter) Tucker's papers (Folder 3) include an autograph album and a letter to her mourning the death of her sister May. Papers of Florence Carpenter (Folder 4) include a photograph in a homemade frame that also appears to record the names of friends or schoolmates. Papers of Herbert Carpenter (Folder 5) include school records, notes and receipts, and family letters to him; his farm records and accounts (Folders 6, 7) record livestock, crops, labor, and household expenses. Letters to Minnie's daughter Mildred Tucker (Folder 8) are from Graydon Tilbury and Harry W. Venable, written while both were serving overseas during World War I. Also included (Folder 9) are history-themed papers on Bowling Green and Warren County and Mildred's history of the Samuel Davies Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Papers of Mildred's grandfather Dr. James E. Tucker (Folder 11) consist of a letter to his future wife, Sallie Moore, outlining his future plans and referring to the secrecy of their engagement.

Box 3 contains pages from an unidentified account book (Folder 1), and a ledger (Folder 2) of Mildred Tucker's father, James Harvey Tucker, recording Commonwealth process received by Tucker while he was sheriff of Warren County, Kentucky.

SHELF LIST

| BOX 1 | Carpenter Family | 1820-1901 | 106 items |
|--------------|---|------------------|------------------|
| Folder 1 | Inventory; clippings with family data | | 16 items |
| Folder 2 | Genealogy notes | n.d. | 9 items |
| Folder 3 | Jonathan T. Carpenter and Luther – Carpenter – Account book and journal | 1820-1886 | 1 item |
| Folder 4 | Jonathan T. Carpenter – Account book | 1826-1858 | 2 items |
| Folder 5 | Jonathan T. Carpenter – Miscellaneous business papers | 1845-1864 | 3 items |
| Folder 6 | Jonathan T. Carpenter and Luther Carpenter – Account book | 1849-1882 | 3 items |
| Folder 7 | Jonathan T. Carpenter – Will and estate inventory of stocks and notes | 1863-1866 | 2 items |
| Folder 8 | Luther Carpenter – Account book | 1858-1898 | 1 item |
| Folder 9 | Luther Carpenter – Farm account book | 1860-1874 | 1 item |
| Folder 10 | Luther Carpenter – Correspondence | 1861-1874 | 8 items |
| Folder 11 | Luther Carpenter – Bank records | 1871-1897 | 8 items |
| Folder 12 | Luther Carpenter – Accounts, contracts, licenses, etc. relating to tobacco | 1871-1879 | 7 items |
| Folder 13 | Luther Carpenter – Miscellaneous accounts, contracts, licenses; Carpenter v. Claypool | 1877-1897 | 17 items |
| Folder 14 | Luther Carpenter, Luther Carpenter, Jr. and Jonathan T. Carpenter – Tax receipts | 1866-1897 | 23 items |
| Folder 15 | Jonathan T. Carpenter – Accounts from Kentucky Military Institute | 1886-1887 | 3 items |

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|--------------|---|------------------|-----------------|
| Folder 16 | Jonathan T. Carpenter – Account book | 1891-1896 | 1 item |
| Folder 17 | Jonathan T. Carpenter – Account book | 1895-1901 | 1 item |
| BOX 2 | Carpenter and Tucker families | 1892-1963 | 76 items |
| Folder 1 | Sarah (Duncan) Carpenter – Letters to, bank book, widow’s allotment | 1868-1912 | 8 items |
| Folder 2 | Annie May Carpenter – Autograph album, correspondence | 1884-1890 | 15 items |
| Folder 3 | Mildred “Minnie” (Carpenter) Tucker – Letters to, autograph album, prescription | 1881-1890 | 4 items |
| Folder 4 | Florence Carpenter – School photo; invitation to Kentucky Military Institute dance | 1899, n.d. | 2 items |
| Folder 5 | Herbert E. Carpenter – Report card, letters to, tax receipts | 1891-1924 | 14 items |
| Folder 6 | Herbert E. Carpenter – Farm records | 1915-1937 | 2 items |
| Folder 7 | Herbert E. Carpenter – Account book | 1902-1945 | 2 items |
| Folder 8 | Mildred Tucker – Letters to | 1918-1919 | 4 items |
| Folder 9 | Papers presented at Bowling Green, Kentucky chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution | n.d. | 4 items |
| Folder 10 | J. Vernon Hardcastle - Dark Tobacco Growers Association membership certificate | 1922 | 1 item |
| Folder 11 | James E. Tucker – Letter to Sallie Moore | 1864 | 1 item |
| Folder 12 | A. James Wardlaw – Checks, note | 1864-1879 | 11 items |
| Folder 13 | Miscellaneous letters, receipts, printed matter | 1862-1963, n.d. | 8 items |

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|--------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| BOX 3 | Miscellaneous; James H. Tucker | 1911-1927 | 3 items |
| Folder 1 | Pages from account book; bank draft | 1911 | 2 items |
| Folder 2 | James H. Tucker – Sheriff’s ledger | 1917-1927 | 1 item |

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS CARPENTER Collection 1820-1963
525

Correspondence, business and farm records, and genealogical data of the Carpenter family of Warren County, Kentucky, primarily Jonathan T. Carpenter, his son Luther M. Carpenter, and Luther’s children. Includes some correspondence and papers of members of the Tucker and Hardcastle families.

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SEE or SEE ALSO

Carpenter, May, 1870-1890

See:

Carpenter, Annie May