



**Walter Havighurst Special Collections
Miami University Libraries**

**Autograph Albums and Scrapbooks
1852-1938**

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Title:	Autograph Albums and Scrapbooks
Dates:	1852-1938
Media:	Manuscripts, scraps, newspaper and magazine articles, printed material, ephemera
Quantity:	2.75 cubic feet

COLLECTION SUMMARY

This collection includes autograph albums, scrap albums, and scrapbooks of newspaper clippings.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

The collection begins with four 19th century autograph albums, containing autographs, poetry, prose, and wishes from friends.

An album presented to Miss Ellen Nickles by a friend on April 3, 1852 in Winchester, Virginia mirrors the gift book or literary annual that was so popular from the 1820s through the 1860s. Published annually, these anthologies of fiction and poetry were presented to friends and family members as Christmas or birthday presents. Inside Ellen Nickles' album are engraved illustrations like "The Little Runaway" and blank pages on which to record thoughts, verses or other meaningful text.

Marion Thayer MacMillan's autograph album was also a Christmas present which she received in 1877. One of those signing Marion's album was Frances (Fanny) Louise Taft, the sister of President William Howard Taft. Fanny was born July 18, 1865 in Cincinnati and married Dr. William A. Edwards in 1890.

Ella McClure Glasgow's autograph album was given to her as a Christmas present from her students, Frank, Lizzie and Robbie Mitchell, in 1881. Another album in the collection belonged to Henry Wilson and dates from 1887.

The collection also includes several examples of scrapbooks featuring die-cut glossy printed paper images, or "scraps." Developed in Germany, scraps were printed by the process of chromolithography. After printing, the sheets of scraps were coated with a gelatin and gum layer, which gave the finished sheets a glossy surface. Then, they were embossed, giving the scrap a three-dimensional look. Finally, the sheets were passed through a punching or stamping press to cut away blank areas. This left the individual images connected by small ladders, often bearing the name or initials of the maker. Victorians used scraps like embossed chromolithographed sheets depicting subjects like shells, birds, animals, Christmas scenes, characters from fairy tales and nursery rhymes, floral arrangements, and decorative letters.

Some scrapbooks in the collection include advertising trade cards. Trade cards were printed in vivid colors and promoted products such as patent medicines, tobacco products, domestic furnishings, and farm equipment. They often included illustrations that sometimes were related to the product, and sometimes were not, and were imprinted with the name and address of a retailer or manufacturer. They were handed out by merchants, left on sales counters for customers to take, and were even distributed as souvenirs at major expositions or used as early advertising efforts.

Other scrapbooks contain newspaper clippings. A scrapbook dating from the 1830s includes newspaper clippings of favorite poems and verse. An early page in this scrapbook indexes selections that can be found on the first 30 pages.

With an "Our Girls" album cover, another scrapbook contains newspaper articles pertaining to Oxford, Ohio. "Fireside Musings" columns from the *Oxford News*, circa 1906, provide details about Oxford and Miami University history. Other articles from 1928 and 1934 report on ownership of college lands in Oxford and Milford Townships, a Miami University trustees meeting to consider a proposal perpetuating the name of Oxford College, and the Oxford woolen mill. Loose pages include programs for Christmas and Fourth of July celebrations (circa 1882), Brookville High School's first annual commencement on May 28, 1877, June 29, 1876 commencement exercises at the Institute of the Immaculate Conception in Oldenburg, Indiana, and a concert at Burnet Woods Park on September 23, 1880. An announcement of the marriage of Otto Schmid and Emma Jestel on February 14, 1889 are inserted at the back of the scrapbook.

Scrapbook makers liked to cover pages densely, pasting clippings over pages of printed books, full bookkeeping ledgers, and other discarded records. Even wealthy scrapbook keepers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries often pasted their clippings and memorabilia directly over the text of old books or catalogs. A scrapbook belonging to L.E. Greman from 1894 to 1909 is housed in a Marshall Field's "illustrated catalogue of holiday goods, druggists' sundries, stationery, small wares, etc." Newspaper articles pasted over several pages of this catalogue document Oxford, Ohio history and other items of local interest.

A Christmas present from her father in 1930, Jane Skinner's scrapbook includes newspaper clippings pertaining to Oxford, Ohio history.

"Things That Interest Me" is the title of a scrapbook dating from 1934. Newspaper clippings document "The Rise and Fall of the Amish Mennonites," the story of Christmas and mulberry trees, historic homes, Christmas celebrations, and local history relevant to Oxford, Ohio.

A scrapbook from 1937 and 1938 commemorates the celebration of the Northwest Territory's sesquicentennial. Newspaper articles report on related events such as an ox-team caravan conducted to mark the occasion, as well as historical details about Ohio cities, a newspaper advertisement promoting events held in Oxford, Ohio to commemorate the sesquicentennial, maps of creeks and forts in the Oxford area, printed material titled "Program for Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Conquest of the Old Northwest", and a certificate of appreciation for Miami University's cooperation with the celebration correspondence.

The Election Scrapbook for 1944 includes magazine and newspaper articles covering the Presidential campaign. Arranged by eighth grader Jane Selby, the scrapbook is arranged chronologically from July through November 1944.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

Series I: Autograph Albums

Series II: Scrap Albums

Series III: Newspaper Scrapbooks

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Access: This collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Walter Havighurst Special Collections, Miami University Libraries.

Preferred Citation: Researchers are requested to cite *Scrapbooks and The Walter Havighurst Special Collections, Miami University Libraries* in all footnote and bibliographic references.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the box and folder numbers shown below.

Series I: Autograph Albums

Box	Folder	Title	Date
1	1	Ellen Nickles' autograph album	1852
	2	Marion Thayer MacMillan's autograph album	1877
	3	Ella McClure Glasgow's autograph album	1881
	4	Harry Wilson's autograph album	1887

Series II: Scrap Albums

Box	Description	Date
2	Teal album with a girl in a hammock on the front cover	ca. 1880-1889
	Burgundy album missing front cover	ca. 1880-1889
3	Blue album with a bird, a coyote, and a border of buckeyes on the front cover	ca. 1880-1889
	Blue album with a copper-colored female statue and flowers on the front cover	ca. 1890-1900
	Dark red album with a view of Paris on the cover	ca. 1900-1909

Series II: Newspaper Scrapbooks

Box	Title	Date
4	Scrapbook of poetry and verse printed in a newspaper	1830-1839
5	"Our Girls" scrapbook containing "Fireside Musings" and other Oxford, Ohio newspaper clippings	1877-1934
	L.E. Greman's scrapbook	1894-1909
6	Jane K. Skinner's scrapbook	1930
	"Things That Interest Me" scrapbook	1934
	Northwest Territory Celebration scrapbook	1937-1938
7	Election Scrapbook for 1944	1944