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HOWELL, ALFRED ELLIOTT
(1863-1931)
FAMILY PAPERS
1842-1935

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INTRODUCTION

The Alfred Elliott Howell Family Papers, 1842-1935, consists largely of family correspondence and diaries of Alfred Howell (1863-1931) and Jennie (Thompson) Howell. The Alfred Elliott Howell Family Papers were a gift of Miss Isabel Howell, Sewanee, Tennessee.

The materials in this finding aid measure 1.68 linear feet. Single photocopies of Alfred Elliott Howell Family Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Alfred Elliott Howell Family Papers containing approximately 600 items and 30 volumes, spans the period 1842-1935. The collection is composed of diaries, memoirs, account books, autograph albums, family and general correspondence, and a few miscellaneous items.

The family correspondence is the largest portion of the papers containing many letters of Alfred Howell and Jennie (Thompson) Howell before and after their marriage. There are also letters of Jennie's sisters, Fanny and Mattie Thompson and Kate (Thompson) Weakley, and the children of Jennie and Alfred -- Morton III, Martha, Frances, Louise, and Isabel. Morton married Marie Harwell; Martha married Paul Bartles; Frances married Esmond Ewing; and Louise married Clopper Almon, all of whom are represented in the papers. The correspondence covers the period 1880-1931 and contains important materials on the social history of Nashville. Mr. Howell, a violinist, kept a list of all the weddings for which he played. This was a social activity. Eleven small diaries were kept by Alfred Howell during the years 1922-1931 when he was living and working in New Jersey. These contain expense accounts and comments on his activities.

There are three autograph albums of Jennie (Thompson) Howell and six diaries covering the period 1875-1919. One little volume kept by Jennie Howell lists the button holes she worked during the years 1906-1908 and her last memoir called "Family Talk" written during the years 1916-1926 is an account of older members of the family who came to Nashville in the early 1800s, especially the Woods brothers, James, Joseph, and Robert, whose sister Agnes (Woods) Trabue was Jennie Howell's grandmother. Several of the little volumes contain expense accounts and one volume, 1902-1919, was kept while the family were at Beersheba Springs, the summer home of the Howells and the Thompsons.

Two volumes for the dates 1920-1923 are diaries of Miss Isabel Howell kept while she was in school at Vanderbilt and for a few months after she was in library school in New York city. A third volume kept by Miss Howell contains a list of daily expenses, 1928-1930.

A map of Davidson county, Tennessee, 1900; a land grant issued to Samuel Solomon by the State of Georgia, Chatham county, 1842; a small brochure of Beersheba Springs with rates of board there; two small photographs of Morton Boyte Howell and his son Alfred; a Confederate bill for 100 dollars and a twenty-five cent bill, 1863 and one ten cent bill, 1874; a bill of sale for Negroes to Sarah B. Woods by James Woods, November 8, 1843, Davidson County, Tennessee, listing names, ages, and prices of Negroes; and five tickets to the Worlds' Columbian Exposition in Chicago, 1893, make up the remainder of the collection.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Accounts – 1886-1935
2. Accounts – Bill of sale, 1843
3. Autograph books
4. Diaries, etc. – Howell, Alfred Elliott
5. Diaries, etc. – Howell, Isabel

Box 2

1. Diaries, etc. – Howell, Jennie Thompson
2. Diaries, etc. – Howell, Jennie Thompson
3. Diaries, etc. – Howell, Jennie Thompson
4. Documents – Resolution of confidence, 1919
5. Elliott, Isabel – poetry
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7. Miscellaneous

Box 3

1. Family correspondence – Alfred to Jennie – 1880-1884
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4. Family correspondence – Alfred to Jennie – June 1887-1888
5. Family correspondence – Member of the family (Jennie, Martha, Frances, and Isabel – 1888-1930; Father, and Brother – 1880)
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7. Family correspondence – Jennie (Thompson) Howell –1920-1930
8. Family correspondence – Louise (Howell) Almon – 1924 -1930
9. Family correspondence – Morton, Martha, Paul, Frances, Esmond, 1905-1930

Box 4

1. Correspondence – author unknown (first names only)
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