Autograph Books

Finding Aid Prepared by Eric Spall, 2017; updated July 2018

Provenance

The Pansy Adams autograph book donated to the Ralph W. Stark Heritage Center by Sharon Robbins, September 1, 2004; the H. L. Kenworthy autograph book was donated by Diana Wolfe Pelland on September 19, 2016; the provenance of the book from the unidentified Bankable Cigar Factory employee is unknown.

Scope and Content

This collection contains three autograph books. One belonged to H. L. Kenworthy (probably Harry Leon Kenworthy, 1869-1944) and contains entries from the 1880s.

One belonged to a woman who worked at the Bankable Cigar Factory (N. N. Smith Co.) in Lebanon; many of the entries are dated 1927. The identity of the original owner is unknown. Some of the entries address the owner as “Laura Mae” or “Laura May,” but her surname is not found in the book.

One belonged to Pansy Adams, Rural Route 12, Lebanon, containing entries from 1907-1909.

Series

I. Kenworthy, H. L.
II. Unidentified Bankable Cigar Factory employee
III. Adams, Pansy

Background

An autograph book is a book used to collect signatures, usually of a person’s family and friends. Individuals signing these books often included bits of verse, quotations from literature, and/or personalized comments. Autograph books originated in the 16th and 17th centuries in the German- and Dutch-speaking areas of Europe. Immigrants brought the custom to the United States.

Harry L. Kenworthy was a lifelong resident of Boone County and prominent Lebanon businessman. He owned a real estate business and was a director of the Rural Credit & Loan Company. He is buried in Lebanon’s Oak Hill Cemetery.

The Bankable Cigar Factory (N. N. Smith Building) at the intersection of W Main and S West Streets in Lebanon, Indiana, opened in 1922.
Pansy Adams was born in Boone County around 1894 and grew up in Center Township. She married Oris Ashwell February 19, 1919. Pansy lived for many years near Advance and later moved to Lake Worth, Florida, where she died June 18, 1987.

Sources

[Family tree chart in Ashwell-Adams Family History File], Ralph W. Stark Heritage Center, Lebanon Public Library, Lebanon, IN.

“Harry Kenworthy Dies Early Today.” Lebanon Reporter, April 22, 1944.

“New Buildings Add Prestige to West Main Street.” Lebanon Daily Reporter, April 17, 1922.


Photographs-Business-53. Photographs Collection, Heritage Center, Lebanon Public Library.


Access Restrictions: None

Related Holdings: Special Collections: Lebanon High School Class of 1939.

Preferred Citation: Autograph Books, Special Collections, Ralph W. Stark Heritage Center, Lebanon Public Library, Lebanon, IN.