Provenance


Scope and Content

This collection contains scrapbooks and papers related to the Stark family of Lebanon.

Series I: Stark Family Scrapbooks, compiled by Judy Walburn in 2010, contains photographs, postcards, newspaper clippings, correspondence, and ephemera; the scrapbooks are cataloged as the Ralph Wayne Stark Scrapbook Collection with the call number HER 808.88 B6BOO STA.

Series II.B: Stark, Ralph W., Notes, Miscellaneous, contains notes on a variety of subjects.

Series III: Stark, Marjorie, originally included 3 photo albums; due to their condition, the albums were disassembled and the photographs moved to Photographs-Stark Family-27-504. The albums also included numerous postcards, most of which were transferred to the Heritage Center’s Postcard Collection.

Series III.C: Stark, Marjorie, Miscellaneous, includes funeral programs for Alpha Stark and Ruth Cathcart, Marjorie’s Butler University library card and Chicago School of Interior Decoration membership card, and copies of her birth and death certificates. Marjorie’s Lebanon High School diploma is in Special Collections-Schools, Commencement Invitations/Programs and Diplomas/Testimonials.

Series IV: Stark, Elmer, contains marriage records for Stark to Kate Robbins and an undated catalog from a sale of Stark’s Hampshire boars and sows.

Series V: Miscellaneous contains Venda Stark’s copy of Basic Instructions for Officers & Guards at United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, Georgia by Julian A. Schoen and a picture frame that originally contained Photographs-Stark Family-12 (“Somebody’s little boy-a hundred years ago”)

Series
II. Stark, Ralph W.
   A. County Historian and Sagamore of the Wabash Certificates
Background

Elmer Stark, son of James and Margaret Stark, was born near Whitestown, November 21, 1874, and spent most of his life in Lebanon. He served on the school board, the city council, and one term as Center Township trustee. He married Alpha Katherine Robbins on February 14, 1900; they had three children: Ralph, Mary, and Marjorie.

Ralph Wayne Stark was born in Lebanon May 19, 1901. A graduate of Lebanon High School (Class of 1921) and Butler University, Stark was a lifelong Lebanon citizen. He worked for the Lebanon Pioneer and Lebanon Reporter and owned a stationary store from 1928-1964. He was an avid researcher of Boone County history and also very interested in environmental conservation. In 1980, the Indiana General Assembly named him the Honorary Historian of Boone County; in 1984, he was awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash, Indiana’s highest honor. The Lebanon Public Library designated its local history collection the Heritage Room in 1975 at the suggestion of Stark; in 1980, the library renamed the collection the Ralph W. Stark Heritage Room (the name became the Ralph W. Stark Heritage Center in 2006). Stark died May 26, 1984.

In 1989, Ralph “Jack”, Jr., Stark’s only child, donated much of his father’s collection to the Lebanon Public Library.

Marjorie Stark was born January 14, 1915. She graduated from Lebanon High School in 1934 and then attended Butler University and the Art Institute of Chicago. She died January 31, 2012.

Sources

Board Minutes, July 26, 1989. Series I.A.1, Lebanon Public Library Archives, Special Collections, Ralph W. Stark Heritage Center, Lebanon Public Library, Lebanon, IN.

Access Restrictions: None

Related Holdings: Family History Files-Stark. Photographs-People; Slides; Stark Family. Special Collections: Ralph W. Stark and Holman Hamilton, Correspondence re: Claude Bowers. Vertical Files: Stark, Ralph W.--Notes and Writings.

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