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MSS 472

Title: Ripley-Bissell Family Collection, Medina and Cuyahoga Counties, 1785-1972

Location: Ohio Genealogical Society, Lyle H. West Archives, 611 SR 97 W, Bellville, Ohio, 44813

Preferred Citation: Ripley-Bissell Family Collection, Medina and Cuyahoga Counties, 1785-1972, MSS 472, box number, file number (OR) item number. Lyle H. West Archives, Ohio Genealogical Society, Bellville, Ohio.

Dates: 1785-1972

Creator(s): Roger D. Ripley (HM1; 1930-2020), Dublin, Ohio [compiler]

Donor(s): Linda Deitz, Hilliard, Ohio

Biography of Creator: *From obituary:* "Roger D. Ripley, age 90, of Dublin, passed away on Wednesday, November 11, 2020. Graduate of Lodi High School Class of 1948 and a graduate of US Naval Hospital School as a Corpsman. Roger was a 14- year US Navy Veteran and served as a Hospitalman First Class. He was awarded the national Defense Medal, Korean Service Medal and a Presidential Unit Citation. He was recognized by the Boy Scouts of America for outstanding commitment to First Aid instruction and service as a camp doctor for many camping excursions. Roger was a member of Avery Lodge #493 F.& A.M. 32nd Degree and Valley of Hastings Orient of Nebraska Supreme Council, 33rd Degree, Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America. He was also a member of Shriners International and Tehama Shriners. Preceded in death by parents Frank H. and Ruth (Bissell) Ripley. Survived by relatives and friends. Family will receive friends 4-6 pm Monday at the TIDD FAMILY FUNERAL HOME, 5265 Norwich St., Hilliard, OH 43026. Interment at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery with honors at 2:30 pm Tuesday. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Shriners Hospital for Children."

Scope and Content: Collection contains family photographs from the Bissell-Brown family of Cuyahoga County, dates 1895-1930, and from the Ripley-Howe family of Medina County, Ohio,

dates 1860s-1930. Also includes Civil War-era documents and letters from the Ripley family, particularly from/about Theodore F. Ripley, who served in Company K, 42nd OVI, and died in Memphis, Tennessee. Two family bibles are included in the collection, one from Silas C. Ripley and Rosina Burgess, the other from Orsemus Howe and Polly Cook (both families from New York, then moved to Medina County, Ohio).

System of Arrangement: Grouped by family, then size of photograph. Papers filed at end.

Extent: 1 box; 2 family bibles (individually wrapped)

Access: No access restrictions.

Physical Access: Family bibles are fragile and should be handled with care.

Language: English

Provenance: Donated to the OGS on September 27, 2024 by Linda Deitz, Hilliard, OH; executor of Roger Ripley's estate.

Related Archival Materials: The Ohio History Center has a ledger from the Burgess and Ripley General Store in Chatham, Medina County; potentially the same family:
<https://aspace.ohiohistory.org/repositories/2/resources/27965>.

Processing Information: Arrangement created by processor.

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Box 1:

File 0: Finding aid, provenance, context, research notes

Bissell-Brown family photographs:

File 1: Portrait of Robert D. Bissell (1875-1933), undated, wearing tuxedo.

File 2: Full-body portrait of Robert D. Bissell (1875-1933), undated.

File 3: Oval portrait of Robert D. Bissell (1875-1933), undated.

File 4: Diamond shaped portrait of Robert D. Bissell (1875-1933), undated, younger.

File 5: Full-body portrait of Eva May Brown Bissell (1878-1957), undated.

File 6: Oval portrait of Hellen Schutts Brown (1842-?), mother of Eva May Brown Bissell, undated. *Potential/approximated identification, based on other photos and age vs. the type of photography used.*

File 7: Group photo of the Bissell children, 1887, Krumhar Co.; (left to right) Robert DeWitt Bissell (1875-1933), Orville R. Bissell (1877-?), Edna Maude Bissell (1884-1973).

File 8: Portrait of Velma Brown Livingston (1883-1973), undated, R. F. Krumhar, Cleveland, Ohio. Sister of Eva May Brown Bissell.

File 9: Portrait of John C. Bissell (1842-1916), undated, A. E. Stiles, Cleveland, Ohio. Father of Robert D. Bissell.

File 10: Portrait of Caroline "Carrie" Lee Bissell (1847-1918), undated, A. E. Stiles, Cleveland, Ohio. Mother of Robert D. Bissell.

File 11: Family portrait of Eva May Brown Bissell, Ruth M. Bissell (1900-1985), and Robert D. Bissell, undated, H. Q. Johnston, Collinwood (Cleveland), Ohio. *Version 1.*

File 12: Portrait of Robert D. Bissell (1875-1933), wearing the Boys' Brigade uniform, 1896, Schiffer Studio, Cleveland, Ohio.

File 13: Portrait of Robert D. Bissell (1875-1933), undated, A. E. Stiles Studio, Cleveland, Ohio.

File 14: Street scene with horse and carriage with "W. R. Livingston" on side of carriage. Man standing in front (potentially Worden Roy Livingston (1877-1940), brother-in-law to Eva May Brown Bissell), undated.

File 15: Family portrait of Eva May Brown Bissell, Ruth M. Bissell, and Robert DeWitt Bissell, undated, H. Q. Johnston, Collinwood (Cleveland), Ohio. *Version 2, enlarged, similar poses.*

Ripley family photographs:

File 16: Group photo of the Ripley family, 1930, at the family home in Chatham township, Medina County.

File 17: Group photo of (L to R) Frank H. Ripley (1883-1972), Ward Alcox, and Frank Chase, sitting on porch steps, undated. *See Bible records of Ripley-Burgess family (Item 2) for a newspaper clipping by Ward F. Alcox (wrote letter to the editor; WWI veteran of the Rainbow Division).*

File 18: Photo of "Mother Ripley," with house and porch in background, 1930, Chatham township, Medina County. Presumably, Italy M. Howe Ripley.

File 19: Full body portrait of "Dad Ripley," undated. Presumably, William H. Ripley (1841-1937).

File 20: Photo postcard of the "Old Ripley homestead," undated, Medina County.

File 21: Photo of the "Ripley homestead," undated, likely the home in Chatham township, Medina County.

File 22: Tintype, seated portrait of Permelia Ripley (1838-1912), undated.

File 23: Tintype, portrait of a man and woman seated together, undated. *Labeled as "Frank and Elsie" (referring to Frank H. Ripley and his first wife Elsie Sears Ripley), in ball point pen (indicating a recent person identified this photo, not contemporary identification). This is unlikely to be Frank and Elsie, as they both were born long after tintypes were in use.*

File 24: Full-body portrait of William H. Ripley (1841-1937), undated.

File 25: Group photo of the Ripley family, undated, all unidentified. Italy M. Howe Ripley (1848-1930), front left, and William H. Ripley (1841-1937), front right. Presumably, their four sons pictured behind them with a grandson seated in between them.

File 26: Group photo of the Ripley family, William H. Ripley (1841-1937), Italy M. Howe Ripley (1848-1930) and an unidentified man standing in front of a car, undated, c. 1920s. Includes a modern copy and enlargement of the photo labeled "Grandma and Grandpa Ripley."

File 27: Wide angle photo of a drugstore, "Lorain Ave. Store," undated, c. 1910. Frank H. Ripley was a druggist and worked/owned stores in Cleveland and Lakewood during his lifetime. The man behind the counter is likely Frank.

Unidentified family photographs:

File 28: Unidentified group photos/portraits, dated 1897-1902. Likely to be Bissell-Brown side of the family, as Eva May Brown Bissell and Robert DeWitt Bissell are in one of these photographs.

File 29: Group photo of 5 people seated on a stone bench, undated. Labeled "Me, Mother, Lillie, Aunt Betty, Dad."

File 30: 2 Photo postcards to Frank Ripley and Elsie Sears Ripley, 1908, other undated. From William H. Ripley and Josephine Clapp. Unclear if photos on the postcards are of family members/friends; potentially a photo of Margaret Clapp LaFollette in 1908 (1905-2001).

File 31: Group photo, people sitting and standing on stairs of an unidentified building, undated. 51 people pictured, only 21 named (last names only).

Papers and documents:

File 32: Robert D. Bissell, masonic records, membership cards, and appointments. Includes the following:

- 1930 Membership card, Asylum of the Forest City Commandery, No. 40, Knights Templar
- 1931 Membership card, Brooklyn Lodge, No. 454, of the Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio
- 1932 Membership card, Brooklyn Lodge, No. 454, of the Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio
- 1930 Membership certificate, Forest City Commandery, No. 40, Knights Templar (Red Cross Knight, Knight Templar and Knight of Malta)
- 1930 Membership certificate, Hall of West Park, No. 214, Royal Arch Masons of the State of Ohio
- 1920 Membership certificate of 33rd degree, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, Free and Accepted Masons (Prince of the Royal Secret)

File 33: Obituaries and funeral card for Frank H. Ripley (1883-1982).

File 34: Diplomas and commencement programs of Roger D. Ripley (1930-2020); Lodi High School (1948) and the US Navy Hospital Corps School (1949).

File 35: Ripley family Civil War records: deferments/exceptions from William H. Ripley and letter from Theodore F. Ripley, and letters regarding his death, 1862-1864.

Family bibles:

These records have been photocopied and added to the OGS Bible Records Collection in the library.

Item 1: Howe-Cook family bible: Orsemus Howe (1823-1892) and Polly Cook (1821-1895), their children and extended families (from Otsego County, New York, moved to Medina County, Ohio)

Item 2: Ripley-Burgess family bible: Silas Corey Ripley (1813-1887) and Rosina Burgess (1808-1875), their children and grandchildren (from Cayuga County, New York, moved to Medina County, Ohio)

Key Words: Cuyahoga County; Medina County; Bissell; Brown; Burgess; Howe; Ripley.

Processed by: Jenna Kish, OGS Archivist, October 17, 2024.

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