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MSS 476

Title: Brown-Miller Collection, Richland County, 1912-1979

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

Preferred Citation: Brown-Miller Collection, Richland County, 1912-1979, MSS 476, box number, file number, page number (if available). Lyle H. West Archives, Ohio Genealogical Society, Bellville, Ohio.

Dates: 1912-1979

Creator(s): Charles Curtis Miller (24 May 1884-12 June 1962) and Nellie Olive Brown Miller (13 Jul 1889-23 Oct 1987)

Donor(s): Aaron Turner, Lexington, OH

Biography of Creator: Charles Curtis Miller and Nellie Olive Brown were lifelong residents of rural Shelby in Richland County, Ohio. Both were descendants of early pioneer families. They were very involved with the Union Grange and were members of the United Church of Christ in Ganges. They had one daughter, Elsie Mae Miller Cobb (1915-2005) and three grandchildren Carol, James, and Charles Cobb.

Scope and Content: Journals/daily diaries, personal papers, funeral registries, and family reunion minutes book from Charles Curtis Miller (1884-1962) and Nellie Olive Brown Miller (1889-1987) of Richland County, Ohio, documenting their personal lives, community, and jobs from 1912 to about 1979. Includes a book of family reunion minutes with the descendants of David Brown (1833-1900) and Ann Styert (1835-1916) of Shelby, Richland County, Ohio.

Extent: 1.17 linear feet

System of Arrangement: Arranged by processor, no original order

Access: No access restrictions.

Language: English

Provenance: Items belonging to Charles Curtis Brown & Nellie Olive (Brown) Miller which were passed down to their only child Elsie Mae Miller Cobb (1915-2005); passed down to her son Charles Elliot Cobb (1939-2023); passed down to his daughter Denise K. (Cobb) VonStein-Heydinger (1963-) who had the material sold at a public estate sale in Plymouth, Ohio, in April 2025 at which time it was purchased by Aaron Turner and donated to OGS.

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Box 1

FILE 0: Finding aid

FILE 1: Diary of Charles Curtis Miller #1

Ledger. Daily log book or journal of Charles Curtis Miller spanning 1912-1926. Each month is one page of the ledger with each line being one day. Most of the entries pertain to what he did for work that day and the wage earned. Many names of family members, neighbors, and community members included as he was a “jack of all trades” in the Shelby and Plymouth area of northern Richland County.

FILE 2: Diary of Charles Curtis Miller #2

Ledger. Daily log book or journal of Charles Curtis Miller spanning 1927-1941. Same format and type of content as journal #1.

FILE 3: Charles Curtis Miller – Personal

Personal papers including pay stubs from Shelby Cycle Company; Shelby Board of Education; Shelby Salesbook; also includes several employment contracts from when he was a custodian at Auburn School in Shelby. Membership cards for the Union Grange. Also includes guest book for the 50th anniversary party of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Miller on December 21, 1958. Patient’s guest book of visitors while in hospital prior to death; Obituary; funeral home registry book from 1962. [Photographs of him with the faculty of Auburn School in the 1950s moved to OPC].

FILE 4: Alice Lodema (Barber) Brown – Personal

Letter written in 1926 by Alice to her daughter Nellie Brown Miller

Funeral home registry book from 1959

FILE 5: Nellie Olive (Brown) Miller – Diary #1

Daily diary of Nellie Brown Miller spanning 1958-1978. From 1958-1962 she is using the one page per month and one line per day format. After that she writes several lines for each day. Many obituaries, newspaper clippings, and other notes are tucked into the pages throughout. Many entries about births/deaths/funerals/weddings of people in the Shelby and Plymouth area.

FILE 6: Nellie Olive (Brown) Miller – Diary #2

1979 daily diary of Nellie Brown Miller. She is writing about three days per page with much more information and detail than the prior volume. Starting on August 1, 1978 she incorrectly writes the year 1978 and continues to use 1978 as the year for the rest of the book. Again many clippings, cards and other papers inserted in the pages throughout. Much local news and personal events within the community.

FILE 7: Brown Family Reunion Minutes Book

Minutes book of the David Brown descendants' family reunions starting with the first reunion held in 1920 through the 46th reunion held in 1965. These reunions were held in Shelby and Mansfield. The beginning of the journal has a very detailed family tree of the descendants of David Brown (1833-1900) and Ann Styert (1835-1916) of Shelby, Ohio. They were the parents of Ura Ellen Brown Lantz (1862-1946); Rolla Mitchell Brown (1863-1939); Vincent Ross Brown (1864-1938); and Clara Brown Bricker (1872-1928). Five to six generations of descendants are listed adding the surnames Brown, Lantz, Bricker, Miller, Holtz, Close, Wilson, Watson, Cobb, Butts, Sprunk, Loughborough, Reynolds, Welch, Sifferlin, Knapp, Andecover, Martin, Echelberger. Officers were elected each year, a list of attendees given for some years, treasurers report, and lists of births deaths given for each year.

Key Words: Shelby Ohio, **Richland County** Ohio, **Brown** Family, **Miller** Family, Lantz Family, Bricker Family, Holtz Family, Close Family, Wilson Family, Watson Family, Cobb Family, Butts Family, Sprunk Family, Loughborough Family, Reynolds Family, Welch Family, Sifferlin Family, Knapp Family, Andecover Family, Martin Family, Echelberger Family.

Processed by: Aaron John Turner, OGS Volunteer, July 1, 2025.

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