

Espy Brawley Family Collection:

Collection Overview

The Espy Brawley Family Collection contains items from the Espy Brawley House. The items in the collection belonged to Espy Brawley and later generations of his family. The collection contains documents, photographs, books, clothing, scrapbooks, yearbooks, and artifacts. The collection also contains some items in need of conservation treatment due to mold growth resulting from previous storage conditions.

Collection Summary

Creator:	Brawley, Espy Watts, 1867-1934
Title:	Espy Brawley Family Collection
Dates:	1880s – 2000s, bulk 1900 - 1990s
Accession Number:	2005.04
Catalog Number:	090.091.003
Extent:	82 linear feet
Language:	Eng
Access:	Open to research with some restrictions; consult LHA staff for details.
Location:	Storage
Repository:	Local History and Archives, Mooresville Public Library 304 S. Main Street, Mooresville, NC 28115
Source of Acquisition:	Mooresville Convention and Visitor Bureau
Compiled by:	Andy Poore

Scope and Content

The Espy Brawley Family Collection contains items that were collected by Espy Brawley and his family relating to their life, the Dixie Cotton Mill, Mooresville Oil Company, and other interests. The collection consists of items that were in the Espy Brawley house during the time the family occupied it. The bulk of the collection is books, photographs, drawings, and family papers such as business reports, school records, diaries, house plans, and correspondence. There are a few artifacts such as a clock, uniforms, and a Brownie 8mm film projector.

Extent

12 boxes of photographs; 14 boxes of family papers; 1 box plus 51 linear feet of books; 1 box of clothing; 9 wooden frames; 1 box of negatives and film; 1 box of family artifacts; 1 Brownie film projector, 1 briefcase, 1 clock, surveying equipment (1 theodolite and ude).

Papers include financial records, business reports, school records, books, diaries, house plans, scrapbooks, yearbooks, travel brochures, maps, and correspondence.

Photographs include family members, school children from various classes, travel, and general interest.

Biographical Sketch

Espy Watts Brawley was born on Feb 15, 1867, and died on Sep 10, 1934. He was the son of Daniel Carmi Patton Brawley. He inherited 436 acres from his father located along Statesville Ave and the Junction. He acquired another 342 acres in addition. His house was ordered from Sears and Roebuck Company. He chose rooms he liked, ordered them, and had them sent by railroad to be assembled on-site. The house was named Lawndale. In 1906 he started the Dixie Cotton Mill on his land and paid for the railroad line around his house and to the mill. He built the mill village on the site. The name was changed to Cascade Cotton Mills at one point. The mill was closed in the early 1930s briefly before Burlington Mills bought it in 1933. It reopened under the name Cascade Weaving which remained in operation until the late 1990s when the mill closed and was sold. The mill village was sold to the tenants. The house was sold by the last of his children in early 2000s.

Series in Collection

Photographs, Family Papers, Clothing, Negatives and Film, Artifacts, Books, Wooden Frames.

Arrangement

The house and items were purchased by the Mooresville Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) in 2006. The original order from when the collection was in the house was lost when items were packed up and placed in storage by the CVB, and most of the items sold at auction. The remaining items were given to the Mooresville Museum. Because the museum had no physical location at the time, volunteers from the museum moved the collection from storage to the library. Once the museum obtained a building, the collection was divided between the museum and the Local History & Archives (LHA). As per the agreement at the time, objects were sent to the museum, while papers, photographs, and books remained with the LHA. The collection has been placed in order by LHA staff.

The records are arranged in boxes, with some arranged in folders. The records have been arranged at a basic series level. One box of materials has been isolated due to mold contamination. The film and negatives are in cold storage. The clock is in the LHA room.

Separated Material

1 box of papers and photographs that have mold. The books are shelved in the book stacks in storage. The surveying equipment is stored on the back aisle in storage. The clock is on display in the LHA reading room.

Preferred Citation

The Espy Brawley Family Collection (SpC 090.091.003). Local History and Archives, Mooresville Public Library, Mooresville, North Carolina.

Collection Rights Statement

LHA provides access to these materials for educational and research purposes only.

Index Terms

Material Types:

Documents
Artifacts
Photographs
Printed materials
Legal documents
Books

Places:

Mooreville, North Carolina

Subjects

Mooreville (N.C.)
Mooreville Oil Company
Dixie Cotton Mill
Brawley family
Schools
Families

Military
People
Cascade Cotton Mills
Cascade Weaving
University of North Carolina
Mooreville (N.C.) families

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access:

- Open to all users.
- Use is only in Local History and Archives room.
- A minimum of three business days advance notice is required.
- Only access to one box at a time is permitted.
- Copies must be made by the Local History & Archives staff.
- Rare and fragile items are restricted for preservation.
- Longer advance notice may be required for any audiovisual materials, such as films, oral histories, etc. that do not have an access copy already created.

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