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Roleson Family papers

Arkansas State University - Jonesboro

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Finding Aid of

ROLESON FAMILY PAPERS

1797-1992

NEAD 002

Archives & Special Collections
Arkansas State University
Dean B. Ellis Library
P.O. Box 2040
State University, AR 72467
Phone Number: 870-972-2960
archives@astate.edu
<http://libguide.astate.edu/archives>

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Summary Information

Compiled By: Meredith Curtis

Creator: James B. Roleson; Mary L. Roleson

Date: 1797-1992; Bulk, 1918-1943

Physical Description: 0.4 linear feet. The collection consists of 16 folders in 1 document box.

Language: English

Abstract

The Roleson Family was among the early settlers of the Jonesboro area and rose to prominence in the first half of the 20th century. Several members of the family fought in World War I and went on to practice law in Arkansas. The collection consists of personal correspondence between family members and friends, news clippings, material from both World Wars, and a large collection of handwritten family records notating births, deaths, and marriages.

Acquisition

The collection was transferred to the archive by the Arkansas State University Museum. Further additions to this collection are not expected.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Julia Corrin, Meredith Curtis, Jennifer Hardin, and Flora Smith.

Conditions Governing Access

This manuscript collection consists of physical materials. This collection has not been digitized. This collection is open for research use only in the Reading Room. It is not available for request through Interlibrary Loan. Please contact the archive via email (archives@astate.edu) at least a week in advance of your arrival to ensure the availability of the material

Rights Statement

Copyright has not been transferred to Archives & Special Collection. Standard copyright laws (U. S. Title 17) still apply.

Preferred Citation

Roleson Family Papers, Item Name and Date, Box and Folder Numbers, Archives and Special Collections, Dean B. Ellis Library, Arkansas State University.
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Biographical Note

Erwin B. Roleson and his wife, Mary Laura (Brookfield) Roleson, moved to northeast Arkansas in 1886, becoming one of the first families to settle in the Craighead County area. The Rolesons had three sons – James Brookfield (J.B) Roleson, Charles Fletcher Roleson, and Edward Britton (E.B.) Roleson. J.B. Roleson enlisted as part of the Young Men's Christian Army in 1917 and served overseas in World War I. While

working at Camp Pike he formed friendships with the Crowley and Caraway families. Following the war, he became a lawyer and had four children with his wife Totsie Anna Somervell. Their children were Dorothy Roleson, Franklin Nathan Roleson, James S. Roleson, and Anna Roleson. J.B. Roleson remained an active member of the YMCA and his local church. E.B. Roleson worked as a druggist in Jonesboro and married Allie Yates in 1909. They had five children - Edmund B. Roleson, Margarate Roleson, Evelyn Roleson Mabrey, Richard Roleson, and Ruth Caroline Roleson. His mother, Mary, lived with him until her death in 1940.

Scope and Content Note

The Roleson Family Papers consists of materials documenting the family history of the Roleson family. This collection includes personal correspondence between family members and friends, news clippings, material from both World Wars, and a large collection of handwritten family records notating births, deaths, and marriages.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in five series.

Series 1: Ephemera. The “Ephemera” series contain small items such as brochures, war booklets, a poetry book, and various souvenirs relating to the life of the Roleson family.

Series 2: Family Records. The “Family Records” series holds files both official and personal. There are pages from family bibles detailing births, deaths, and marriages in addition to official marriage licenses, a license to practice law, land records, and deeds.

Series 3: News Clippings. The “News Clipping” series contains various newspaper, journal, and magazine articles covering such topics as the family, World War I, local politics, public speaking, poetry, and local interest pieces. It is organized by subject.

Series 4: Personal Correspondence. The “Personal Correspondence” series contains letters between family members and friends as well as a few diary entries.

Series 5: YMCA. The “YMCA” series contains a variety of material. The files include personal letters, memos, and news clippings related to the YMCA as well as YMCA publications.

Subjects

- Family records
- World War, 1914-1918

Names

- YMCA (Jonesboro, Ark.)
- Jonesboro (Ark.)
- Roleson, James B., (James Brookfield)
- Roleson, Mary L., (Mary Laura Brookfield)

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Ephemera, 1917-1963

Box 1:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
1	Miscellaneous	1925-1963
2	Various War Booklets and Items	1917-1943

Series 2: Family Records, 1797-1941

Box 1:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
3	Deed of Land	1882
4	Deeds, Certificates, Etc.	1893-1928
5	Family Bible Pages and Marriages	1797-1941

Series 3: News Clippings

Box 1:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
6	Poetry and Literature	Circa 1918-1924
7	Politics and Miscellaneous	Circa 1918-1919
8	Speeches and Speaking Material	1938-1943
9	Society and Local Interest	Circa 1905-1965
10	World War I and Aftermath	Circa 1918-1921

Series 4: Personal Correspondence, 1880-1963

Box 1:

Folder Number	Dates
11	1880-Circa 1941
12	1941-1963
13	1919, 1992

Series 5: YMCA, 1918-1920

Box 1:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
14	News Stories	Circa 1918-1920
15	Papers, Letters, and Publications	1918-1920
16	Various Booklets	1918-1919