

Finding Aid to the Willard E. Hankel Papers

Hankel, Willard E., 1904-1998

Willard E. Hankel Papers, 1941-1995

1 linear ft.

Collection number: Mss 261

[Biography](#)

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OVERVIEW

Access: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Institute.

Provenance: Donated by Wayne Hankel on behalf of Willard Hankel children, 2000 (Acc. 2577).

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BIOGRAPHY

Willard E. Hankel was born on October 22, 1904 at Danube, Minnesota. He was the second son of August and Bertha (Kemnitz) Hankel. The Hankel family moved to North Dakota in 1916 and Mr. Hankel attended school at Ludden, North Dakota and Guelph, North Dakota. In 1934 Willard Hankel married Marie Kilzer, the daughter of Jacob and Minnie Kilzer, and they moved to a farm near Ludden, North Dakota. In 1937 they moved to a farm near Oakes, North Dakota. The Hankels had six children; Wayne, Daryl, Marvin, Elaine and Lyle were all born and raised on the farm. A daughter Janice died in infancy. For several years during the 1930s the Hankels rented a room to the local schoolteacher. In 1974 the Hankels retired, built a new house near their original farmhouse and sold the farm to their youngest child Lyle. Willard and Marie Hankel were both active members of the St. John's Lutheran Church.

Marie Hankel was a leader of the Riverdale Livestock 4-H Club and an active member of the Homemaker's Club. Willard Hankel served on the Riverdale school board for 13 years. Mr. Hankel died on August 17, 1998.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The **Willard Hankel Papers** consists of papers that document the history of the Hankel family and Mr. Hankel's farm ledger and diaries. The papers have been organized into three series: Family history, Ledger, and Diaries.

The [Family History Series](#) contains two booklets created for the 25th Annual Cousin's Reunion. One, titled the *History of the Descendants of Robert L. Hankel*, gives a short history of each of the families, and the second booklet contains photographs of family members. This series also contains transcripts of conversations with family members recorded on September 5, 1976. This series is completed by two collections of news items pertaining to the Hankel family. The news items were compiled from articles found in the *Oakes Times* during the years 1883 to 1937.

The [Ledger Series](#) contains a small number of pages of records that Mr. Hankel kept. These include household and farm records that cover the years 1941-1942. They record expenses for farm and household items and income received for chickens, cream, and eggs sold, among other things.

The [Diaries Series](#) consists of five notebooks that cover the years 1946-1995 and twenty calendars that cover the years 1961-1981. The notebooks consist of daily entries, usually one or two lines that record what Mr. Hankel did that day. The entry for October 29, 1946 is typical. "Finished picking corn, PM took chickens to Oaks." Mr. Hankel often includes the high and low temperatures for the day in his entries. The twenty calendars are much the same as the diary notebooks except that the entries are made on a calendar. Space on the daily squares limits the text to a few words.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box/Folder	Contents
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1/1	Finding aid, and Biographical material
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Family History Series

1/2	Histories of the Descendants of Robert L. Hankel, Sept. 7, 1991
1/3	Family Photograph Collection, Sept. 7, 1991
1/4	Transcripts of conversations with family members, Sept. 5, 1976
1/5	Transcripts of conversations with family members, Sept. 5, 1976
1/6	News items collection, 1883-1937
1/7	News items collection, Sept. 22, 1910-July 28, 1921

Ledger Series

1/8 Ledgers, 1941-1942

Diaries Series

Notebooks:

1/9 January 1, 1946-December 18, 1955
1/10 December 18, 1955-December 31, 1960
1/11 January 1, 1982-October 18, 1984
1/12 October 19, 1984-December 31, 1995
1/13 January 1, 1990-December 31, 1995

Calendars:

1/14 January 1, 1961-December 31, 1961
1/15 January 1, 1962-December 31, 1962
1/16 January 1, 1963-December 31, 1963
1/17 January 1, 1964-December 31, 1964
1/18 January 1, 1965-December 31, 1965
1/19 January 1, 1966-December 31, 1966
1/20 January 1, 1967-December 31, 1967
1/21 January 1, 1968-December 31, 1968
1/22 January 1, 1969-December 31, 1969
1/23 January 1, 1970-December 31, 1970
1/24 January 1, 1971-December 31, 1971
1/25 January 1, 1972-December 31, 1972
1/26 January 1, 1973-December 31, 1973
1/27 January 1, 1974-December 31, 1974
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1/30 January 1, 1977-December 31, 1977
1/31 January 1, 1978-December 31, 1978
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1/33 January 1, 1980-December 31, 1980
1/34 March 16, 1981-December 31, 1981