Finding Aid to the
Ira Eddy Family Papers

Eddy, Ira, 1866-1948
Ira Eddy Family Papers, 1823-1983
.2 linear ft.
Collection number: Mss 212

OVERVIEW

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BIOGRAPHY

Ira Eddy was born in Plainview, Minnesota on November 18, 1866, son of Ezra Booth Eddy and Jane Bishop Wilson. Ira Eddy’s wife, Grace Evelyn Scott, was born in Hastings, Minnesota on March 27, 1872. Ira and Jane were married in Fargo, North Dakota on Oct. 18, 1899. Mr. Eddy was interested in his family’s genealogy and could trace his ancestry back to Captain Miles Standish and the earliest known member of the Eddy family, Reverend William Eddy of Cranbrook, England in the county of Kent. Reverend Eddy’s sons, Samuel and John Eddy immigrated to Plymouth Colony from England in 1630, and settled at there. Ira Eddy worked as a concrete contractor in Fargo for thirty-two years, while Mrs. Eddy was an active member of the Order of the Eastern Star. Mr. and Mrs. Eddy had three children: Percy
Scott Eddy of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Ralph Ira Eddy, who preceded his father in death, and Jane Eddy Good. The couple moved in with their daughter Jane Good at Sheldon, North Dakota when Mrs. Eddy fell seriously ill. Mrs. Eddy died February 23, 1947. Mr. Eddy remained with his daughter at Sheldon until he passed away October 27, 1948. Mr. Eddy was a member of the First Methodist Church.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Ira Eddy Family papers have been arranged into two series: Correspondence and Subject files. The papers fell into the care of Ira Eddy’s daughter, Jane Eddy Good following Mr. Eddy’s death in 1948. The paper remained in her care until she donated them to the Institute for Regional Studies in 1997.

The Correspondence Series is organized into seven files, arranged chronologically. This series includes eight letters written to or from various members of the Eddy family from Dec. 17, 1823 to Feb. 26, 1896.

The letter dated Dec. 17, 1823, from E.S. Eddy to Jonas Eddy at Gallipoli, Ohio, is written in regards to the latter’s health and general well being over the previous weeks. It provides Jonas Eddy and family the reassurance that the poor health E.S. Eddy endured has since left him.

The letters of Aug. 20, 1838 to May 15, 1843 were written to Rev. Ira Eddy (1796-1874), (grandfather of Ira Eddy of Fargo by Nathan Eddy) by William Waddell, and James Eddy. They provide a general insight into the day-to-day activities both within and without the Eddy family, which was at the time living in Edinburg, Ohio. Health, business, family, and thoughts are discussed in the correspondence from the various authors.

The two letter written by Safford B. Eddy from Aug. 30, 1846 (10 p.) and Nov. 8, 1846 (21 p.) to John J. Hayden of Shawneetown, Illinois and Major Marshall relate Safford’s experiences in Mexico as General Gideon Pillow’s chief clerk during the Mexican War. In these letters, Safford writes about his journey to Mexico, the weather, animals, and army operations in the field. The first letter was written from Camp Patterson on the Rio Grande and the second from Camargo, Mexico. Eddy died in 1847 while serving in the army. Safford’s letters were prized possessions of the Eddy family, being held by Amelia Eddy Shimmers, Ira’s aunt, before being passed on to Ira Eddy in 1896.

A letter to Jane Eddy of Plainsview, Minnesota from her brother, dated only October 20th, discusses the health of her parents and other family members. This letter was likely written after the death of Jane’s husband in 1885. The letter was sent in care of T.A. Thompson.

The Subject Files Series is arranged into nine files, arranged alphabetically. This series includes genealogical material on the Eddy, Scott, and Good families. There is extensive information on the Eddy family line, but less in the Scott and Good family genealogies. The Scott family information consists of a single handwritten page to Alexander Scott (October 21, 1854). The information included on the Good family consists of a single note (date unknown). Also included are form letters from the Eddy Family Association and the Ezra Booth-Eddy Family Association (1937-1942). There is a North Dakota Agricultural College Certificate of Appointment for Ralph Eddy as Sergeant in Company B of the Battalion of Cadets (1922), and an El Zagal Temple card. A poem entitled A Tribute to the Memory of
Safford B. Eddy, published at Willoughby in 1851, is also included, as are photocopies of selected pages of the Eddy family genealogy entitled *The Eddy Family, Reunion at Providence, 2nd Ed.* (1884). A 50th anniversary pamphlet for Leigh and Jane Good from 1983 is also present in the collection.

**BOX AND FOLDER LIST**

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**Correspondence Series**

1/2 Letter to E.S. Eddy from Jonas Eddy, Dec. 17, 1823
1/3 Letter to Ira Eddy from Nathan Eddy, Aug. 20, 1838
1/4 Letter to William Waddell, Dec. 6, 1840
1/5 Letter to Eddy family from Jonas Eddy, May 15, 1843
1/6 Letter to John Hayden from Safford B. Eddy, Aug. 30, 1846
     Letter to Major Marshall from Safford B. Eddy, Nov. 8, 1846
1/7 Letter to Ira Eddy from Amelia Eddy- Shimmers, Feb. 26, 1896
1/8 Letter to Jane B. Eddy from brother, Oct. 20 (year unknown)

**Subject Files Series**

1/9 El Zagal Temple card, undated
1/10 Eddy Family Association, form letters, Oct. 29, 1937, & Eddy Family Association form letters, Jul. 1, 1940
1/11 Eddy family genealogy, Scott family genealogical information
1/12 *The Eddy Family, Reunion at Providence, 2nd ed.*, 1884 (photocopy)
1/13 Ezra Booth-Eddy Family Association, undated
1/14 Good family genealogy
1/15 Good, Leigh and Jane, 50th Anniversary, June 14, 1983
1/16 NDAC Certificate of Appointment, Dec. 1, 1922
1/17 *A Tribute to the Memory of Safford B. Eddy*, 1851