


1974

## 0087: Campbell-Staats Family Papers, 1875-1925

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**REGISTER**  
**OF THE**  
**CAMPBELL-STAATS FAMILY PAPERS**

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1995

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**CAMPBELL-STAATS FAMILY PAPERS, 1875-1925**

Accession Number: 87

Processed by: Angela M. Summerlin

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## CONTENTS

	page
Content and Scope of Collection	1
Biography	2
Inventory of the Collection	3
I. Correspondence	
Jennie Ratcliff Campbell Papers	
II. Miscellaneous	
General Correspondence/House Construction Information	
House Interior/Exterior Design Receipts and Misc. Items	
III. Index	

Explanatory notes:

“Bx” refers to box in which papers are filed.

“Fd” refers to folder.



## CONTENT AND SCOPE OF THE COLLECTION

The Campbell-Staats collection consists of two separate series of information. The first series is comprised of the Jennie Ratliff Campbell papers. These papers consist mainly of personal correspondence to Miss Ratliff dating from 1875-1888. The majority of these letters were from two particular individuals, R. G. Drysdale and W. S. Livengood, and concerned everyday occurrences and mutual acquaintances. The remainder of the series is made up of samples from her schoolwork, songs she had copies, business correspondence and a book of poetry given to her by her fiancée, C. W. Campbell.

The second series is comprised of the Campbell-Staats family papers. This series contains letters addressed to C. W. Campbell and to Nan Staats, the daughter of Mrs. C. W. Campbell and Mrs. Jennie Ratliff Campbell. The series also contains miscellaneous cards and announcements sent to the family. The bulk of the series is comprised of receipts, invoices and information concerning the construction and decoration of the Campbell-Staats family home located at 1040 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Huntington, West Virginia. The remainder of the collection contains miscellaneous items (news clippings, a photograph, receipts, et cetera) relating to the Campbell-Staats family.

### CAMPBELL-STAATS FAMILY

The Campbell-Staats family was a family prominent in the local politics of Huntington, West Virginia throughout the early twentieth century.

Charles William Campbell was born on 29 September 1856 in Monroe County. The son of Robert D. and Mary Catherine (Johnson) Campbell, he attended the county schools, the State Normal School at Athens and later taught school in Monroe County while he studied law. In 1880 he moved to Hamlin and after an examination before Judges Evermont Ward, Ira J. McGinnis and David E. Johnson he was admitted to the Bar in April 1881.

On 28 August 1888 he married Jennie Ratliff, the daughter of the clerk of the county of Wayne County George F. Ratliff and his wife Nancy Frazier Ratliff. Shortly after the marriage they moved to Huntington where they would reside for the next twenty-eight years. Together the Campbells raised five children — Rolla D., a graduate of Harvard, who married Ruth Cammack; Charles W., who married Lillian Bronson; Nan, who married Coleman A. Staats; Ruth, who married A. M. Hewitt, and Jennie Eloise, who married P. Walker Long.

Throughout the course of his career Mr. Campbell served as a member to the Cabell County Bar Association from 1888-1935, was President of the West Virginia Bar Association in 1908 and was a successful businessman who pledged his private funds in getting the Guyan Valley Railroad (a branch of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad) started.

Politically he was a Democrat and was the nominee for circuit judge in 1904. He served a number of times in the common council of the City of Huntington and during one period was the only Democrat on the council. He was a member of the Legislature in 1911 and was chairman of the judiciary committee and a member of the finance committee. He was a delegate to several national conventions as well as state and local conventions. He was also mayor of the City of Huntington from 1919-1922. During his tenure as mayor he donated his salary (approx. \$12,500.00) to purchase parks for the city.

He was an elder in the First Presbyterian Church and was well known for his charitable works which included contributions to his church, the Salvation Army, the Community Chest and the Crippled Children's Hospital as well as a number of other worthy causes.

His wife, who was known for her own charitable works, passed away on 5 August 1919 shortly after he was elected mayor of Huntington. It was during the years directly following his wife's death that he commenced construction of a family house at 1040 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue on land previously belonging to his wife. He built the house in conjunction with his daughter Nan and her husband Coleman A. Staats. In 1924 he retired and moved back to Monroe County where he took an active interest in farming as well as local church and community affairs. He died in Huntington on 22 March 1935 after a brief illness.

Today the Campbell-Staats home is owned by Marshall University and serves as the residence of the University President. The contents of this collection were found in the home several years later the University assumed ownership.

Material for biographical information about the Campbell-Staats family was taken from the following sources:

Casto, James E. *Huntington: An Illustrated History*. Northridge, California: Windsor Publications, 1985.

*Huntington Herald-Dispatch* Wednesday 08-06-1919, p. 5

Wallace, George Selden. *Cabell County Annals and Families*. Richmond, Virginia: Garrett and Massie Publishers, 1935.

Wallace, George Selden. *Huntington Through Seventy-Five Years*. Huntington, West Virginia: 1947.

**CAMPBELL-STAATS FAMILY PAPERS, 1875-1925**

**I. Correspondence**

**Bx 1**

**Jennie Ratliff Campbell Papers 34 Fds**

**Fd 1 General Correspondence to Jennie Ratliff, 1875-1885 5 items**

**Nov. 16, 1875 — Huntington, West Virginia.**

C. W. Smith, atty. at law, sent a note to Miss Ratliff confirming receipt of her previous letter and stating he had fulfilled her request.

**Jan. 9, 1881 — Randolph, Kansas.**

Tom Lewis, a friend, apologizes for not answering Miss Ratliff's letter of the previous year sooner, fills her in on current events and requests addresses of mutual friends.

**Feb. 3, 1885 — Logan Co., West Virginia.**

Dixie [?] apologizes for not writing sooner. States she has settled down to a life of teaching but doesn't expect to get rich. Sorry she could not see Jennie over the holidays. She tells Jennie not to go South before they can see one another. She personally plans to go to Texas in the Spring. States she has agreed to disagree.

**Fd 2 Drysdale, R. G. to Jennie Ratliff, 1885 6 items**

**Oct. 2, 1885 — Firth, Nebraska**

Thanks Jennie for sending jim a copy of Deacon Merrill's paper, has been a long time since he heard from W. V. so to get the paper was a great pleasure. Thinks often of Wayne County. Sorry to hear of the downfall of the *Ceredo Enterprise* (paper) but happy its editor flourishes at the capital where "his journalistic talent and staunch Republican principles will be more fully appreciated and better rewarded." Supposes there is still talk of building the Ohio & Guyandotte Railroad.

**Oct. 23, 1885 — Firth, Nebraska**

Happy to have received her letter. Left Janesville on 8/31, his 25<sup>th</sup> birthday, to go to Firth and finish learning telegraphy and gain insight in station work. Hopes to study, practice and become something of a railroad man in the course of time. Describes Firth. If not so much to do would get pretty homesick, but taking everything into consideration, Nebraska is not a bad place to live.

**Dec. 20, 1885 — Firth, Nebraska**

Her letter was much appreciated, glad she will try to be more punctual in future correspondence but hopes she will not have to write shorter letters to do so. Obligated to her for sending him a copy of *The Advocate* newspaper. He was most interested in the account of her concert and wished he could have been there. Thought it "real mean" of the Methodists to boycott her but he never did have much faith in Southern Methodism and has less now. If anything in particular besides a Republican he is a Baptist.

**Fd 3 Drysdale, R. G. to Jennie E. Ratliff, 1887 3 items**

**Jan. 22, 1887 — Turlington, Nebraska**

Glad she has not forgotten her Ohio & Guyandotte friends. Wrote of Livy, his life and future plans. For his own part there is no "Mary" there or anywhere else. Thanks her for the copy of *The Advocate*. While he does not make as much there as he was promised at the O&G, his check never fails to get there on paycheck so he has no cause for complaint. While he sometimes gets lonesome, he has plenty of books and papers so he manages.



**May 22, 1887 — Tobias, Nebraska**

Puzzled as to why he does not hear from her. Before he left Turlington he wrote a long letter and enclosed two ones as a contribution to the good cause she and her friends were working for and had not heard from her since. Asks that if she never received it to please let him know and he would duplicate the contribution so there would be no danger of it getting lost.

**Fd 4 Drysdale, R. G. to Jennie E. Ratliff, 1888 4 items**

**July 15, 1888 — Tobias, Nebraska**

Hopes she will excuse the liberty of his writing her, but he cannot remember the last time he heard from anyone in West Virginia having lost track of his old friends. Doesn't know if she is still in W. Va. Or if her name is still Miss Ratliff but will try to find her. Would be pleased to hear from her and know how she and her family are getting along. Came there from Turlington fifteen months before and has been on duty ever since as station agent. Inquires of old acquaintances and asks if she keeps track of Livy who is now married and telegraph editor of the *Daily Herald* in Los Angeles, California.

**July 27, 1888 — Tobias, Nebraska**

Received her letter of the 20<sup>th</sup>. Thanks her for news of herself, acquaintances and of the area and offers her congratulations in advance regarding her intended. He is sorry her fiancé did not succeed in his race for judgeship. His wedding will not take place until September when they can go East. If they have time to have pictures taken they will send her one. Doesn't often hear from Livy but reads the *Times* regularly. Offers her his best wishes for her future as he shall always keep her name in the list of his best friends.

**Fd 5 Drysdale, R. G. to Jennie E. Ratliff Campbell, 1888 1 item**

**Nov. 12, 1888 — Tobias, Nebraska**

Acknowledges receipt of her letter from two months prior; since then he has gotten married, been East, started housekeeping and has been rushed at work since returning.

**Fd 6 [Livengood, W. S.] to Jennie E. Ratliff, 1883 1 item**

**Dec. 10, 1883 — location unknown**

Coded postcard apparently from W. S. Livengood.

**Fd 7 Livengood, W. S. to Jennie E. Ratliff, 1884 8 items**

**Mar. 23, 1884 — Ceredo, West Virginia**

Complains about the mail service. He is still working for the company — his resignation only lasted five days; he got tired of loafing.

**Fd 8 Livengood, W. S. to Jennie E. Ratliff, 1884 12 items**

**Apr. 29, 1884 — Ceredo, West Virginia**

States that Jennie and Drysdale are equally punctual for their letters arrived together. Feels determined that he should go after the first of May to somewhere he can board for nothing. He has paid and paid until he has barely enough for passage home. He is thankful for that at least, for some fellows haven't that much left. Guesses that Drysdale is all right financially, yet does not know if Drysdale will go with him when he leaves. Still seeing Kate.

**Fd 9 Livengood, W. S. to Jennie E. Ratliff, 1884 1 item**

**Fd 10 Livengood, W. S. to Jennie E. Ratliff, 1884 2 items**

**Oct. 26, 1884 — Somerset, Pennsylvania**

Speaks of the now past West Virginia election and the upcoming national election. He is booked at Somerset for the winter and is teaching. Had several offers for private waltzing lessons which he plans to accept. Cannot see what made her think he thought ill of her, unless she supposed he took offense about her being compelled to stop writing on account of her duty towards 'somebody else!'

**Fd 11 Livengood, W. S. to Jennie E. Ratliff, 1885 10 items**

**Feb. 11, 1885 — Somerset, Pennsylvania**

(Newspaper clippings enclosed) He doesn't think much of a fellow who would go back on a girl that suited him except she couldn't cook. He enclosed "some choice culinary literature" for her to peruse. He is now a newspaper writer, occasionally moralizing in the editorial columns of the Somerset Co. Times. Has not heard from Dick [Drysdale] since he went to Janesville.

**Fd 12 Livengood, W. S. to Jennie E. Ratliff, 1885 1 item**

**Fd 13 [Livengood, W. S.] to Jennie E. Ratliff, 1885 2 items**

**May 14, 1885 — Elk Lick, Pennsylvania**

Signed in code, presumably from W. S. Livengood. Thought that Drysdale and Mary corresponded like friends, like himself and Jennie, but appears they are more serious.

**Fd 14 Livengood, W. S. to Jennie E. Ratliff, 1885 2 items**

**June 28, 1885 — Elk Lick, Pennsylvania**

Has decided to go West. Will emigrate in August.

**Fd 15 Livengood, W. S. to Jennie E. Ratliff, 1885 2 items**

**Sept. 20, 1885 — Carleton, Thayer Co., Nebraska**

He is teaching and writing for the paper. States Dick Drysdale is only a few counties away in Firth County, Nebraska.

**Fd 16 [Livengood,] W. S. to Jennie E. Ratliff, 1885 2 items**

**Oct. 7, 1885 — Carleton, Thayer Co., Nebraska**

Signed in code. States she should not allow herself to become so depressed. He is currently inclined toward journalism. Thinks she should take up law, believes she could make a success of it for it is a profession now open to ladies.

**Fd 17 [Livengood, W. S.] to Jennie E. Ratliff, 1885 2 items**

**Dec. 12, 1885 — Carleton, Thayer Co., Nebraska**

Signed in code. Teases her for deifying him. Reminds her that even a true friend like 'Livy' is not without spots or blemishes.

**Fd 18 Livengood, W. S. to Jennie E. Ratliff, 1886 1 item**

**Fd 19 Livengood, W. S. to Jennie E. Ratliff, 1886 2 items**

**Mar. 17, 1886 — Carleton, Thayer Co., Nebraska**

States journalism is still his aim for the future. Bankers seem very encouraging telling him the town has need for a newspaper.

**Fd 20 Livengood, W. S. to Jennie E. Ratliff, 1886 4 items**

**Apr. 11, 1886 — Carleton, Thayer Co., Nebraska**

Has been successful in raising sufficient stock to start a semi-weekly newspaper.

**Fd 21 Livengood, W. S. to Jennie E. Ratliff, 1886 1 item**

**Fd 22 Livengood, W. S. to Jennie E. Ratliff, 1887 2 items**

**Jan. 16, 1887 — Carleton, Thayer Co., Nebraska**

Congratulates her on now being able to play the violin in addition to the piano and coronet, calling her a musical prodigy. Asks what became of the 'fine young lawyer' she was so excited about the previous year.

**Fd 23 Livengood, W. S. to Jennie E. Ratliff, 1887 2 items**

**Mar. 19, 1887 — Carleton, Thayer Co., Nebraska**

Informs Jennie of his hopes to travel to Chicago in the summer to marry Louise. States while Jennie has been unfortunate in her beaux, reminds her she is still young. Suggests 'how about Campbell, and his politics wrong, too?'

**Fd 24 Livengood, W. S. to Jennie E. Ratliff, 1887 1 item**

**Fd 25 Livengood, W. S. to Jennie E. Ratliff, 1887 2 items**

**June, 19, 1887 — Toledo, Ohio**

Note stating the wedding will take place at noon that day, no cards. Postscript: thinks it unkind of her not to acknowledge receipt of his and Louise's pictures; if she doesn't like them, please return them.

**Fd 26 Livengood, W. S. to Jennie E. Ratliff, 1887 2 items**

**Aug. 22, 1887 — Carleton, Thayer Co., Nebraska**

He was offered \$20.00 a week to be city editor of the Pasadena *Daily Star*. His brother-in-law will run the Carleton *Times*. Their new address will be 39 Moline Avenue, Pasadena, California

**Fd 27 Livengood, W. S. to Jennie E. Ratliff Campbell, 1888 2 items**

**Aug. 31, 1888 — Los Angeles, California**

He is now writing a strange woman whom he never addressed before. Expresses his sincere congratulations to them both. States in his own job he is compelled to edit telegraphic dispatches to rid them of their Republican bias and give them a Democratic tinge. His new address will be 121 Shaw Street, Los Angeles, California.

**Fd 28 Livengood, W. S. to Jennie E. Ratliff, undated 7 items**

Six envelopes with unclear dates; undated partial letter from Livengood.

**Fd 29 School work, Jennie Ratliff, 1877-1879 4 items**

**Fd 30 School work, Jennie Ratliff, 1880 9 items**

**Fd 31 School work, Jennie Ratliff, undated 4 items**

**Fd 32 School work, Jennie Ratliff, undated 3 items**

**Fd 33 Song copies, Jennie Ratliff 3 items**

**Fd 34 Bound volume, *Byron's poems*, to Miss Jennie Ratliff from C. W. Campbell, 1887 1 item**

## **II. Miscellaneous Correspondence; House Construction Information**

**Bx 2 General Correspondence: 1040 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Huntington, W. Va.; Receipts, Invoices 57 Fd**

**Fd 1 Correspondence to C. W. Campbell, 1896-1903 5 items**

### **Jan. 23, 1896 — Ashland, Kentucky**

W. M. Campbell, C. W. Campbell's brother, sends him a copy of their father's obituary notice, which was prepared by Rev. M. H. Bittinger but not published in the local paper.

**Fd 2 Correspondence to Nan Campbell Staats, 1925 1 item**

**Fd 3 Miscellaneous Wedding and Anniversary Cards 19 items**

**Fd 4 Miscellaneous Christmas Cards, undated 20 items**

**Fd 5 Miscellaneous Christmas Cards, undated 16 items**

**Fd 6 Miscellaneous Invitations, Name Cards, etc. 7 items**

**Fd 7 American Railway Express Receipts, 1923 8 items**

**Fd 8 Armstrong Cork and Insulation Invoices, 1923 2 items**

**Fd 9 Brewer Brothers and Rose [concrete] Statements, 1923 5 items**

**Fd 10 Building Inspector's Permit, 1922 1 item**

**Fd 11 C. W. Campbell Miscellaneous Receipts, 1922-1923 5 items**

**Fd 12 Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad Co. Freight Bills, 1922-1923 7 items**

**Fd 13 J. L. Cook Hardware Co. Invoices, June 1922 3 items**

**Fd 14 J. L. Cook Hardware Co. Invoices, July 1922 1 item**

**Fd 15 J. L. Cook Hardware Co. Invoices, August 1922 9 items**

**Fd 16 J. L. Cook Hardware Co. Invoices, September 1922 14 items**

**Fd 17 J. L. Cook Hardware Co. Invoices, October 1922 8 items**

**Fd 18 J. L. Cook Hardware Co. Invoices, November 1922 10 items**

**Fd 19 J. L. Cook Hardware Co. Invoices, December 1922 14 items**

Fd 20 J. L. Cook Hardware Co. Invoices, January 1923	9 items
Fd 21 J. L. Cook Hardware Co. Invoices, February 1923	12 items
Fd 22 J. L. Cook Hardware Co. Invoices, March 1923	6 items
Fd 23 J. L. Cook Hardware Co. Invoices, April 1923	12 items
Fd 24 J. L. Cook Hardware Co. Invoices, May 1923	10 items
Fd 25 J. L. Cook Hardware Co. Invoices, June 1923	1 item
Fd 26 Robert L. Day and Sidney L. Day Architects Invoices, 1922-1923	5 items
Fd 27 J. H. Druen Co.[plumbing and gas fittings] Invoices, May 1923	8 items
Fd 28 Emmons Hawkins Hardware Invoices, 1922-1923	23 items
Fd 29 Greenline Steamers [shipment of windows] Invoice, 1922	2 items
Fd 30 Groves-Thorton Hardware Co. Invoices, 1923	4 items
Fd 31 Hagan and Co. [plumbers and roofers] Invoices, 1922	2 items
Fd 32 P. Henson [stonework] Invoices, 1922-1923	2 items
Fd 33 Higgin Manufacturing Co. [window equipment] Bids, Invoices, 1922-1923	4 items
Fd 34 King and Petterson Co. [brickwork] Invoices, 1923	7 items
Fd 35 G. D. Lemley [plastering] Invoices, 1922-1923	4 items
Fd 36 Lunken Window Co. Invoices, 1922	2 items
Fd 37 McKellar Electric [lights, etc.] Invoices, 1922-1923	15 items
Fd 38 Minter Homes Invoices, June 1922	8 items
Fd 39 Minter Homes Invoices, July 1922	5 items
Fd 40 Minter Homes Invoices, August 1922	5 items
Fd 41 Minter Homes Invoices, September 1922	8 items
Fd 42 Minter Homes Invoices, October 1922	14 items
Fd 43 Minter Homes Invoices, November 1922	26 items
Fd 44 Minter Homes Invoices, December 1922	11 items
Fd 45 Minter Homes Invoices, January 1923	9 items

<b>Fd 46 Minter Homes Invoices, February 1923</b>	<b>8 items</b>
<b>Fd 47 Minter Homes Invoices, March 1923</b>	<b>16 items</b>
<b>Fd 48 Minter Homes Invoices, April 1923</b>	<b>11 items</b>
<b>Fd 49 Minter Homes Invoices, May 1923</b>	<b>10 items</b>
<b>Fd 50 Minter Homes Invoices, June 1923</b>	<b>2 items</b>
<b>Fd 51 Minter Homes Invoice, July 1923</b>	<b>1 items</b>
<b>Fd 52 Mossman Bros. Co. [general supply house] Invoices, 1922</b>	<b>3 items</b>
<b>Fd 53 Prichard Transfer and Storage Co. Invoices, 1922</b>	<b>3 items</b>
<b>Fd 54 J. B. Sadler Tile Invoices, 1923</b>	<b>3 items</b>
<b>Fd 55 Union Sand and Gravel Invoices, Receipts, 1922-1923</b>	<b>52 items</b>
<b>Fd 56 James J. Weiler and Sons [structural steel, ornamental iron and metal products] Invoices, 1922-1923</b>	<b>9 items</b>
<b>Fd 57 Single Invoices, House Construction</b>	<b>12 items</b>

**Bx 3 House Interior, Exterior Design**

27 Fd

<b>Fd 1 Anderson-Newcomb Co. [dry goods] Invoices, 1923</b>	<b>2 items</b>
<b>Fd 2 Baltimore &amp; Ohio Railroad Co. Invoices, 1922-1923</b>	<b>6 items</b>
<b>Fd 3 Virginia Cavendish, Landscape Architect, Invoices, 1923</b>	<b>11 items</b>
<b>Fd 4 G. W. Day, Interior Decorator, 1922-1923</b>	<b>16 items</b>
<b>Fd 5 Florence Emery [interior decorator], 1922-1923</b>	<b>25 items</b>
<b>Fd 6 Florence Emery [interior decorator], 1924; undated</b>	<b>12 items</b>
<b>Fd 7 Florence Emery, Account Credit Receipt, 1923</b>	<b>1 item</b>
<b>Fd 8 Fugate Delivery Co., 1922-1923</b>	<b>2 items</b>
<b>Fd 9 Huntington Upholstering Co., 1923-1924</b>	<b>6 items</b>
<b>Fd 10 Henry Kohankie &amp; Sons [ornamental nurseries], 1923-1924</b>	<b>3 items</b>
<b>Fd 11 Robert Mitchell Furniture Co., 1923</b>	<b>3 items</b>
<b>Fd 12 S. Norton &amp; Sons [interior decorators] Estimate, Invoices, 1922-1923</b>	<b>2 items</b>

<b>Fd 13 Robert Phillips Co. [light fixtures, ornamental bronze and wrought iron], 1923-1924</b>	<b>3 items</b>
<b>Fd 14 Single Invoices, Interior and Exterior Design</b>	<b>18 items</b>
<b>Fd 15 Single Invoices, uncategorized</b>	<b>5 items</b>
<b>Fd 16 Zenner-Bradshaw Co. [dry goods], 1923</b>	<b>2 items</b>
<b>Fd 17 Property Memorandum of Agreement</b>	<b>1 item</b>
<b>Fd 18 Insurance Policies</b>	<b>12 items</b>
<b>Fd 19 First National Bank of Huntington Canceled Checks and Deposit Slips, 1922-1923</b>	<b>78 items</b>
<b>Fd 20 First National Bank of Huntington Bank Statements, Bank Book (C. A. Staats)</b>	<b>3 items</b>
<b>Fd 21 C. A. Staats Tax Receipt, 1923</b>	<b>1 item</b>
<b>Fd 22 Union Bank and Trust Company Canceled Checks, 1924</b>	<b>2 items</b>
<b>Fd 23 Newspaper, 1909</b>	<b>2 items</b>
<b>Fd 24 Cash Account Ledger (Unidentified)</b>	<b>1 item</b>
<b>Fds 25-26 Miscellaneous Items</b>	<b>15 items</b>
<b>Fd 27 Photographs, Rudd Neel, undated</b>	<b>1 item</b>

## III. Index

The first number indicates the box, the second number denotes the folder where the material is located

Addie	1:7, 8	Hall, Lorra	1: 8
Adkins, Babe	1: 8	Harrison-Norton (1888 election)	1: 27
Allen, Kate	1: 7	Henson, P.	2: 32
American Railroad Express	2: 7	Hersey, Mr. _____	1: 8
Anderson-Newcomb Co.	3: 1	Higgin Manufacturing Co.	2: 33
Armstrong Cork and Insulation	2: 8	Humphries, S. F.	2: 1
Ashland, Ky.	2: 1	Huntington, W. Va.	1: 19
		Huntington Upholstering Co.	3: 9
Baptist faith	1: 2		
Bittinger, Rev. M. H.	2: 1	Illinois	1: 14, 19
Blaine	1: 28	Insurance Policies	3: 18
Brewer Brothers and Rose	2: 9		
Building Inspector's Permit	2: 10	Janesville, Neb.	1: 2
<i>Byron's Poems</i> (1887)	1: 8, 34		
		Kansas	1: 14
Campbell, C. W.	1: 4, 5, 21-24, 26, 27, 34; 2: 1, 11	King and Petterson	2: 34
Campbell, Jennie E. Ratliff	1: 5, 27	Kohankie, Henry & Sons	3: 10
Carleton, Neb.	1: 15, 17-24, 26		
Cavendish, Virginia	3: 3	Ledger (Cash)	3: 24
Ceredo, W. Va.	1: 7-9, 19	Lemley, G. D.	2: 35
Chicago, Ill.	1: 14, 20, 23	Lewis, Tom	1: 1
Cleveland, Ohio	1: 25	Livengood, W. S. [a.k.a. Livy]	1: 2-4, 6, 28
Coded Correspondence	1: 7, 8, 13, 16, 17		(as a teacher) 1: 10, 15
Cook, J. L. Hardware Co.	2: 13-25		re: Louise (Louie) 1: 11, 13,
Covington, Ky.	1: 12		re: marriage 1: 23, 2
		Los Angeles, Calif.	1: 27
Day, G. W.	3: 4	Lunken Window Co.	2: 36
Day, Robert and Sidney	2: 26		
Dixie	1: 1	Mail Service	1: 7
Druen, J. H. Co.	2: 27	Mary _____	1: 2, 14
Drysdale, R. G.	1: 2-5, 7-9, 11, 13-15, 17-18, 23,24	Mason	1: 2
		McDougal, Tom	1: 7,8
Election, 1884 (W. Va.)	1: 10	McKellar Electric	2: 37
	1888 (Presidential)	Merril, Deacon	1: 2
Elk Lick, Penna.	1: 13, 14	Methodism	1: 2
Emery, Florence	3: 5-7	Michigan	1: 23
Emmons Hawkins Hardware	2: 28	Miller	1: 7
		Minter Homes	2: 38-51
Ferguson, Mary	1: 28	Miscellaneous items, cards	2: 3-6; 3: 25, 26
First National Bank of Huntington	3: 19-20	Mitchell, Robert Furniture Co.	3: 11
Firth, Neb.	1: 2, 15	Morton, S. & Sons	3: 12
Fugate Delivery Co.	3: 8		
		Napier, Mose, Building — Fire	1: 7
Gidding and Co., Inc.	2: 2	Nebraska	1: 14
Greenline Steamers	2: 29	Neel, Rudd (photograph)	3: 27
Grover's Democrats [Cleveland]	2: 30	Newspapers:	
			<i>The Advocate</i> 1: 2, 3
Hagen & Co.	2: 31		Carleton (Neb.) <i>Semi-Weekly Times</i> 1: 4, 20, 2



	<i>Ceredo Enterprise</i>	1: 2
	<i>Daily Herald</i>	1: 4
	<i>Lincoln State Journal</i>	1: 20
	<i>Pasadena Daily Star</i>	1: 26
	Somerset Co. (Penna.) <i>Times</i>	1: 11
	Unnamed	3: 23
	<i>Western Rural</i>	1: 20
'Nightfall' (Song)		1: 19
Ohio		1: 23
Pasadena, Calif.		1: 26
Pennsylvania		1: 9, 23, 25
Phillips, Robert Co.		3: 13
Poetry		1: 8
Prichard Transfer		1: 53
Property Memorandum Agreement		3: 17
Railroads		
	Baltimore & Ohio	3: 2
	Chesapeake & Ohio	2: 12
	Ohio & Guyandotte	1: 2, 3, 7-9
Ratliff, Jennie E.	1: 1-4, 6-26, 28, 34	
	Birthday	1: 7
	Musical Talent	1: 19, 20, 22
	Schoolwork	1: 29-32
	Song Copies	1: 33
	Views on Matrimony	1: 14
Reading Circle		1: 8
Red Sulphur Springs, W. Va.		2: 1
Republicans		1: 2, 27
	President	1: 5
Smith, C. W.		1: 1
Somerset, Penna.		1: 10-12
Staats, C. A.		3: 21
Staats, Nan		2: 2
Texas		1: 1
Tobias, Neb.		1: 3-5, 21
Toledo, Ohio		1: 25
Turlington, Neb.		1: 3, 4, 21
Union Bank & Trust Co		3: 22
Union Sand & Gravel		2: 55
War (mention of pending)		1: 2
Wayne Co., W. Va.		1: 2
Weiler, James J. & Sons		2: 56
Zenner-Bradshaw Co.		3: 16