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REGISTER
OF THE
CAMPBELL-STAATS FAMILY PAPERS

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CAMPBELL-STAATS FAMILY PAPERS, 1875-1925

Accession Number: 87

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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 13th 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 as 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 13th 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 25th 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 20th. 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 13th 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

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

Bx 3 House Interior, Exterior Design

27 Fd

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

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

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