



Carter-Hickman Family Papers (C4736)

Collection Number: C4736

Collection Title: Carter-Hickman Family Papers

Dates: 1876-1995

Creator: Carter-Hickman Family

Abstract: The Carter-Hickman Family Papers document the lives of William Ray Carter, associate professor at the University of Missouri, his wife Helen Hickman, and their families. Together William and Helen had two children, William and Lyda, and lived in Columbia, Missouri.

Collection Size: 1.4 cubic feet
(45 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research but may be stored offsite. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Carter-Hickman Family Papers* (C4736); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Robin J. Kaufman (Accession No. CA6347).

Processed by: Processed by Heather Richmond, February 2026.

Historical Note:

Helen Hickman was born July 20, 1908, in Union, Missouri, to William Brownlow Hickman (1869-1945) and Eulalia "Lyda" McGrew Hickman (1869-1925). Helen had four siblings: Bertie L. Hickman Beeny (1898-1972), Howard Hickman (1903-1958), Nova Hickman (1911-1992), and Elizabeth "Beth" Hickman Carter (1914-2002). By coincidence, Beth Hickman married a man named W.R. Carter who was no relation to William Ray Carter. In the 1930s, Helen earned a master's degree in education while teaching in a one-room schoolhouse in southwest Missouri.

William Ray "W.R." Carter was born on April 13, 1896, in Monroe County, Missouri, to James William and Cora Agnes Crosswhite Carter. He had three siblings: James Langdon Carter (1897-1923), George Bennie Carter (1904-1975), and Linnie Nadine Witte (1907-1992). The family lived on a farm and then moved to town when William was young. William graduated from Centralia High School and attended the University of Missouri, eventually earning his Ph.D. in Education in June 1931. He taught in rural schools in Centralia, Brunswick, and Dawn, before becoming a professor of Education at the University of Missouri-Columbia. His research specialty was intelligence and aptitude testing.

Helen Hickman and William Ray Carter married on August 5, 1939. They had two children, William Jefferson "Jeff" Carter, born 1941, and Lyda F. Carter, born 1943. The family lived in Columbia, Missouri. William Ray Carter died on May 23, 1960, after which Helen attended the University of Missouri-Columbia library school, going on to work as a librarian at the University of Missouri library. Helen had been weaving since the 1950s and after retirement became active in the Columbia Weaver's and Spinner's Guild. She was also an avid gardener and member of the Columbia Horticultural Society. In 1965, Helen's sister Nova moved in with her in Columbia, and the two lived together until Nova's death in 1992. Helen, Nova, and Lyda traveled extensively in the American west from the 1960s-1980s, taking photographs of their travels. Helen Hickman Carter died on May 5, 1995.

William Jefferson "Jeff" Carter married Velma Zonge in 1964. They had four children and lived in Minnesota. Lyda Carter and her partner, Robin Kaufman, adopted two sons, Josh and Andy, and lived in Chicago, Illinois. Lyda earned her master's degree in library science from Indiana University and worked at the Chicago Public Library before attending McCormick Theological Seminary and becoming a counselor at Good Shepherd Parish Metropolitan Community Church. She was active in the labor and women's rights movements. Lyda died in 1997.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following 2 series:

Documents

Photographs, Negatives, Slides, and Scrapbooks

Scope and Content Note:**Documents**

This series contains materials related to both the Hickman and Carter families, including Civil War pension documents of Martha Hickman relating to the service of her husband John D. Hickman; correspondence written to Helen and William Ray Carter from family and friends;

school-related materials from Helen and William Ray; and William's academic research from his time as a professor at the University of Missouri. The research includes information about academic aptitude and college admissions, and intelligence testing, as well as the publication *A Study of Certain Mathematical Abilities in High School Physics*, written by William Ray Carter. A small number of documents related to Lyda and William Jefferson Carter, such as diplomas, wedding invitations, letters, and grade reports, are also included.

Photographs, Negatives, Slides, and Scrapbooks

This series makes up the bulk of the collection and consists of photographs of various members of the Hickman and Carter families, scrapbooks created by Helen Hickman Carter, and slides from the family's travels west as well as slides images of family and friends, weaving events, and flowers. Photographs are grouped by individuals or family.

Carter family photographs include images of the James William Carter and Cora Agnes Crosswhite Carter family and their home; and images of James William's brother Benjamin Thomas Carter, his wife Nettie Bailey Carter, and their family. Photographs from Helen's side of the family are more extensive and include images of the McGrew family on her mother's side and the Hickman family on her father's side but mainly consist of photos of Helen and her siblings. Some of these photographs are unidentified. Helen's 1920-1938 scrapbook mostly documents her years as a teacher and includes both photos and ephemera. Her gardening scrapbook contains no photos but rather clippings and diary entries regarding progress in her garden over the course of two years. Two letters from Lyda are also included in this. Modern photo albums of Helen's dating from the 1970s-1995 document her close relationship with her sisters and with Lyda and her family. Visits with Jeff and his family are also documented, and a number of black and white photos of children taken and developed by Jeff are included. The photo albums also include images of Helen's garden and weavings. The collection also includes photos of Beth Hickman Carter's son Richard, his wife Rita, and their children, Karen, Jill, and Julia Kay; and some images of Bertie Lee Hickman Beeny's family, including her daughter Rosalee. Images of Helen, W.R., Lyda, and Jeff Carter together are scant.

Slides include a couple of images of Helen and W.R. together but mostly document Helen's life with Nova from the 1970s on, including images of Jeff Carter with his family, visits to various family members, Christmases, birthdays, and grandchildren. More images of Jeff Carter and his family appear as slides, while Lyda Carter's family is more well-documented in the photographs. The collection contains numerous slides taken during Helen, Nova, and Lyda's trips out west in 1968 and 1969, as well as trips from the 1960s-1980s to Niagara Falls, the Smoky Mountains, Florida, New Orleans, Seattle, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Glacier National Park. Columbia Weavers and Spinners Guild slides are mostly images of exhibits at the Midwest Weavers Conferences. One set of slides documents weavings displayed at the Western Illinois University library in Macomb, Illinois, and another set documents an exhibit at the St. Louis Art League. Very few of the slides are individually labeled, with the exception of the 1968 trip west. Slide sheets are labeled according to the box the slides were found in.

Container List:

Documents

Box 001 f. 1

Hickman family documents, 1876-1902

- f. 2 Helen Hickman Carter documents and correspondence, 1943-1995, undated
- f. 3 Nova Hickman funeral, 1992
- f. 4-5 William Raymond Carter Centralia High School memory book, 1913-1916
- f. 6 William Raymond Carter correspondence and documents, 1918-1959
- f. 7 William Ray Carter college materials, 1931, undated
- f. 8 Carter, William Ray, *A Study of Certain Mathematical Abilities in High School Physics*, undated
- f. 9 William Ray Carter research – intelligence testing, 1932-1960
- f. 10 William Ray Carter – Walter Orr Roberts correspondence, 1958
- f. 11 William Ray Carter – education publications, 1956-1958
- f. 12 William Ray Carter writings – by and about, 1957-1958
- f. 13 Jeff Carter and family documents, 1959-1989
- f. 14 Lyda Frances Carter and family documents, 1964-circa 1980s

Photographs, Negatives, Slides, and Scrapbooks

- Box 001 f. 15 James William Carter family photographs, 1911-1930s or 40s, undated
- Box 002 f. 16 Benjamin Thomas Carter family photographs, 1914-circa 1940s
- f. 17 James Langdon Carter family photographs, 1910-1919
- f. 18 William Ray Carter photographs, 1896-circa 1950s
- f. 19 Brunswick High School class photos, 1922-1924
- f. 20-21 McGrew-Hickman family photographs, circa 1904-1990, undated
- f. 22 Hickman family photo album, 1929-1932
- f. 23-24 Helen Hickman scrapbook, 1920-1938
- f. 25 Helen Hickman Carter garden scrapbook and diary, 1953-1955
- f. 26 Helen Hickman Carter - Roswell New Mexico trip photos, 1960; Carter family photograph, 1940s
- f. 27 Helen Hickman Carter photo album, 1970s-1990s
- Box 003 f. 28 Helen Hickman Carter birthday party photographs, 1991
- f. 29 Lyda and Jeff Carter childhood photographs, circa 1940s
- f. 30 Lyda Carter and family, photographs, circa 1940s-1990s
- f. 31 Photographs – Christmases with Lyda Carter family, 1980s-1990s
- f. 32 Jeff Carter and family, photographs, 1941-1984
- f. 33 Richard and Rita Carter family, photographs, circa 1950s-1985
- f. 34 Virginia and Betty Witte photographs, undated
- f. 35 Bertie Lee Beeny family photographs and documents, 1921-circa 1970s
- f. 36 Miscellaneous and unidentified photographs, circa 1900-1995
- f. 37 Negatives, circa 1950s
- f. 38-39 Slides – Family and friends, 1959-1986, undated
- f. 40 Slides – Flowers, 1966-1988
- f. 41 Slides – Trips, 1966-1983
- Box 004 f. 42 Slides – Trip West, 1968
- f. 43 Slides – Trip West, 1969

f. 44-45 Slides – Columbia Weavers and Spinners Guild, 1977-1989,
undated

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Automobiles, 1930s	36	Yes
Badlands National Park (S.D.)	43	Yes
Baker family	16	Yes
Beeny, Bertie Lee, 1898-1972	20-22, 35	Yes
Beeny, Bertie Lee, 1898-1972	2	
Bent's Fort	42	Yes
Blue Mesa Reservoir (Colo.)	42	Yes
Bolinger, Lois E.	23	Yes
Campbell, Bradford Paul	2	Yes
Carriages and Carts	36	Yes
Carter, Benjamin Thomas, 1876-1956	16, 18	Yes
Carter, Cora Agnes Crosswhite, 1876-1947	6	
Carter, Cora Agnes Crosswhite, 1876-1947	15	Yes
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Carter, Frances Wilhoit, 1801-1865	15	Yes
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Carter, Helen Hickman, 1908-1995	20-24, 26-28, 30-32, 35, 37-39, 41-45	Yes
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