

Summary Information:

Collection Title: Ridings Family Collection

Collection Number: MSS.05

Date Range: 1900-1970

Size: 1.5 Linear Feet

Location: RR.7.4

Creator: The Ridings Family

Abstract: The Ridings Family Collection contains photographs relating to the family history of Henry Vernal (H.V) and Agnes (Brady) Ridings. The bulk of the photographs in the collection relate to the Ridings family but also include their descendants and relatives highlighting important Joliet families: Loughran, McFarland, Duckworth, and Gray families. In addition to photographs the collection includes the wedding album of H.V. and Agnes (Brady) Ridings as well as a small amount of correspondence from Agnes (Brady) Ridings and additional records.

Acquisition Information: 2022.35 – All materials included in this collection were donated by Jim Ridings, the son of Agnes and H.V. Ridings.

Separated Materials: None

Citation: Item Description. MSS.05 Ridings Collection, Joliet Area Historical Museum. Box #, Folder #.
Date Accessed.

Restrictions: None

Processed by: Kailee Lowry

Background Information:

History:

Henry Vernal (H.V) Ridings and Agnes Brady married on August 17, 1946 in Joliet at St. Raymond's Catholic Church. They would go on to have six children: Michael, Mary (Peterson), James, Elizabeth (Crawford), Margaret (Witowski) and Patrick. The family resided in Joliet at 1619 Rowell Ave.

H.V., the son of Albert and Agnes (Gray) Ridings, served in the U.S. Army from 1942 through 1945 under General Patton and was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. From there H.V. operated an accounting firm in the Rialto Square Building for over 65 years. H.V. passed away in 2005.

Agnes (Gray) Ridings, daughter of William and Mary Gray, had several siblings including Bernice and Bill Gray. Bernice would go on to marry Joe Duckworth of Lockport. Bill Gray worked as a clerk for the EJ&E railway in Joliet until his retirement in 1967.

Agnes (Brady) Ridings was born in 1917 to Wade J. Brady Sr. and Agnes (Loughran) Brady. Agnes, and the Brady family including her two brothers Wade J. Brady Jr. and Joe Brady resided in Joliet at 809 Richmond St. Agnes would go on to attend the University of St. Francis, graduating in 1938, while her brothers attended Notre Dame as did their father. Agnes passed away in 1989 after a tree fell on her in the front yard of the family home.

Wade Sr., son of Otto and Mary Brady, worked as an attorney in partnership with Frank Loughran in the Loughran building at the corner of Cass and Chicago in Joliet.

Michael and Sarah Loughran resided in Joliet at 903 Western Ave. with their four children: Anna, Margaret, Frank, and Agnes (Brady). Anna would go on to marry Thomas F. McFarland, while her sister Margaret would marry Patrick "Packey" McFarland, a renowned prize boxer. Margaret and Packey would go on to reside at 903 Western after the passing of Michael and Sarah by the 1930s.

Scope and Content Arrangement:

The materials included in the Ridings Collection have been kept in their original order. The materials are ordered alphabetically by family name. The collection consists primarily of photographs, but also includes a few pieces of correspondence, obituary cards, and business cards from the families included in the collection. Due to the small size of the collection, it has not been divided into series.

Related Materials:

MSS.04 Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Collection

MSS.09 EJ&E Milepost Photograph Collection

Content Listing:

Folder Title:	Folder #:	Box #:
Brady Family, 1909, 1929-1942	1	1
Duckworth Family, C. 1900s	2	1
Gray Family, 1942-1967	3	1
Loughran and McFarland Families, C. 1930s and 1940s	4	1
Albert and Agnes (Gray) Ridings, C. 1900s	5	1
Agnes (Brady) Ridings, 1917-1938	6	1
Henry Vernal Ridings WWII, 1940-1943	7	1
Henry Vernal Ridings, 1930-1970	8	1
Henry and Agnes (Brady) Ridings,	9	1
Jim Ridings, 1957-1970	10	1
Henry Vernal Ridings and Agnes Brady Wedding Album, 1946	1	2
Correspondence and Misc. Papers	2	2