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Nunn, C. George, Papers, 1909-1925

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INTRODUCTION

A collection of diary entries, letters, writings, music, scripts, business and financial documents, and other materials related to Mr. C. George Nunn's activities as a traveling Minstrel show director/producer and musical composer.

DONOR INFORMATION

The C. George Nunn Papers were received by the Leonard H. Axe Library of Pittsburg State University from Ellen Clark Crawford in 1996. The papers were located by Ms. Crawford in her garage in Harper, Kansas.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Mr. C. George Nunn was a director, producer, musical composer, lyrical writer, and manager of a minstrel performance company. Very little biographical information on C. George Nunn has been found. The diary entries from Mr. Nunn in 1924, and his letters and other writings are typically depressing and hostile toward the world. Most of the papers in the collection are from the Michigan, Ohio, and Illinois areas. Others are from New York, Texas, and Florida. There is no mention in the papers of a wife or children. The only known person to have traveled with Mr. Nunn was a boy named Dewey Miles. (Information varies on Dewey's last name; see the letter from B. Miller). C. George Nunn was a member of the fraternal order of the Elk's from at least 1913 and there is correspondence between Mr. Nunn and other Elk members up to 1925. No documents in the papers indicate a date of birth or date of death. There are mentions in the correspondence of Mr. Nunn suffering from an accident, but no other information was found.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The C. George Nunn Papers are comprised primarily of diary entries, correspondence, sheet music, lyrics, monologues, play directions, contracts, stock records, information about the fraternal order of Masons, land titles, C. George Nunn's All Star Greater American Minstrels, and other materials related to Nunn's minstrel shows. The content of C. George Nunn's diary entries expressed strong feelings of depression and loneliness. Mentions of William Triplett, Dewey Miles (a young performer), John W. Vogel ("Minstrel King"), M. J. Burrows, Sol. M. Wolf of the fraternal order of Elks, and Tom Bartlett can be found within the collection of papers. The collection is arranged into four series: **Writings, Performances, Financial and Business, and Miscellaneous.**

The **Writings Series** is composed of mostly diary entries, family letters, and one letter from a Mr. Hanna, arranged in that order. Dated materials from 1924 and 1925 are arranged chronologically within the folders. Most of the materials are undated and some are anonymous. The only papers with dates are the diary entries of Mr. Nunn from April 27, 1924 to August 24, 1924, and the family letter addressed to Uncle George, from June 1, 1925. Some diary entries describe Spring City, Tennessee, and strawberry fields, while other diary entries discuss Nunn's depressed thoughts and strong commentary of Nunn's admiration of snakes. The letter from Mr. W. W. Hanna of New Britain, Connecticut, pertains to Nunn's request for information. Hanna states the records kept by his father were destroyed twenty years earlier in a fire but the local cemetery records might be of assistance.

The **Performances Series** is comprised of sheet music, lyrics, scripts, and monologues. The papers are arranged in chronological order. Sheet music and scripts of the Opening Ensemble of 1923, *The Divorce*, *The School Gag*, and *The Band Kept Playing That Same Old Rag* have separate folders arranged chronologically. Many scripts, sheet music, and monologues are undated. The undated scripts, lyrical sheets, and monologues are arranged alphabetically within the first miscellaneous folder in this series. In the second miscellaneous folder is sheet music, some with lyrics. These papers are arranged alphabetically by first letter of the first line.

The **Business and Financial Series** is separated into two parts, business correspondence and financial documents. The business correspondence consists of telegrams, letters, post-cards, and notes. They are arranged chronologically. The correspondence ranges from 1911 to 1925. Various letters are correspondence between C. George Nunn and Sol M. Wolf, a member of the fraternal order of the Elks. Correspondence between Nunn and Mr. John W. Vogel, the “Minstrel King”, expose a seemingly long friendship between the two. Other telegrams, letters, and postcards are from various sources. The financial documents consist primarily of oil and gas leases, stock certificates, the daily box office receipts, and show contracts, all arranged chronologically. Three blank oil and gas leases are placed in the back of this folder. The financial documents range from 1909 to 1924. The documents range in location, from Bellevue, Ohio to Kissimmee, Florida.

The **Miscellaneous Series** is divided between clippings and envelopes. Clippings from the *Ohio State Journal* and the *Lima (Ohio) Republican-Gazette* are both from 1923. Three empty envelopes with mailing labels from various locations comprise the last folder.

FOLDER LIST

Writings Series

- f. 1 Diary Entries, Family letters, Correspondence

Performance Series

- f. 2 The Band Kept on Playing That Same Old Rag; Sheet Music
- f. 3 The School Gag; Script, Prop Letter, Cast List
- f. 4 The Divorce; Script
- f. 5 The Opening Ensemble of 1923; Sheet Music
- f. 6 Miscellaneous; Scripts, Lyrics and Monologues
- f. 7 Miscellaneous; Sheet Music, (some with Lyrics)

Business and Financial Series

- f. 8 Business Correspondence; Telegrams, Letters, Post-cards, and notes
- f. 9 Financial Documents; Contracts, Receipts, Stock Certificates, Titles, Oil and Gas leases

Miscellaneous Series

- f. 10 Clippings; Newspapers from Ohio in 1923
- f. 11 Envelopes

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Elks (Fraternal Order)	f. 8
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Florida, Kissimmee	f. 8
<u>Lima (Ohio) Republican-Gazette</u>	f. 11
Miles, Dewey	f. 8
Minstrel shows (History)	f. 2 – 9
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<u>Ohio State Journal</u> , Columbus	f. 11
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Triplett, William	f. 8
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