

Carter/Cash Family Collection

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c.1940-2009



Title Statement

Carter/Cash Family CollectionCarter/Cash Family Collection, c.1940-2009 Ms.2009.090

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Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Special Collections and University Archives, University Libraries (0434)
560 Drillfield Drive
Newman Library, Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
Business Number: 540-231-6308
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URL: <http://spec.lib.vt.edu>



2009 (CC0 1.0)

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2023-08-07 13:42:41 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2009.090

Unit Date

c.1940-2009

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The Carter/Cash Family Collection contains memoirs, biographies, photographs, funeral programs, newspaper and magazine articles, and memorabilia relating to the Carter family and Johnny Cash.

Extent

1.4 Cubic Feet 1 box

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The initial materials for the Carter/Cash Family Collection were purchased by Special Collections in June 2009. Additional materials were purchased by Special Collections in two further accruals during July and August 2009.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the initial Carter/Cash Family Collection materials commenced and was completed in June 2009. The processing, arrangement, and description of accruals was completed in August 2009.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Carter/Cash Family Collection, Ms2009-090, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

In the early 1900s, "hillbilly" music was being recorded in studios in northern states. The distance from the mountains of Tennessee and Virginia made it difficult for musicians to record their music. Ralph Peer—a producer for Victor Talking Machine Company in Bristol, Tennessee—decided to take advantage of this booming genre of music by establishing a recording studio on the second floor of the Taylor-Christian Hat Company on State Street in Bristol. In 1927, Peer recorded several songs with musicians that, to this day, are still regarded as the mothers and fathers of country music. Ralph Peer is also credited with discovering Jimmie Rodgers—one of country music's legends—at the Bristol Sessions.

In response to Peer's call for musicians, Alvin Pleasant "A.P." Delaney Carter, his wife, Sara Dougherty Carter, and his sister-in-law, Maybelle Kilgore Addington Carter traveled to Bristol to record their music. The Carter Family recorded six songs and soon became known as the "first family" of country music. The Carter Family continued to grow in size and musical talent. Maybelle Carter and her husband Ezra (A.P.'s brother) were the parents of June (1929-2003), Helen (1927-1998), and Anita (1933-1999), who later performed as the Carter Sisters. Although Johnny Cash (1932-2003) was, arguably, one of the most influential country music artists of all time, his music broke the boundaries of traditional country music, spilling over into other genres including blues, gospel, and rock and roll. Since his marriage to June Carter in 1968, he has been considered a member of the Carter family musicians.

For additional information on the Carter and Cash families, see the following:

Birthplace of Country Music website

Streissguth, Micheal Johnny Cash: The Biography **Newman Library 3rd Floor ML 420 .C265 S66 2006**

Zwonitzer, Mark Will You Miss Me When I'm Gone?: The Carter Family and Their Legacy in American Music. **Newman Library 3rd Floor ML 421 .C33 Z86 2002**

Scope and Content

The Carter/Cash Family Collection contains memoirs written by Janette Carter and Gladys Millard (daughters of A.P. and Sara), biographies, discographies, sheet music, and a compact disc recording titled *The Original Carter Family in Texas* (1999). In addition to this material, the collection includes programs from the Carter Family Memorial Festival and Craft Show (2000, 2002-2004, and 2008), funeral services for second generation Carter musicians and Johnny Cash, and special events at the Carter Family Fold. The Carter/Cash Family Collection also contains photographs, newspaper and magazine articles, and memorabilia, such as Maybelle's hunting and fishing license (1975) and a Carter Fold volunteer badge.

Separated Materials

The following books have been separated to the Rare Book Collection:

Cash, June Carter Among My Klediments

Wolfe, Charles K. June Carter Cash Johnny Cash A. P. Carter Sara Carter Maybelle Carter Jimmie Rodgers The Carter Family: In the Shadow of Clinch Mountain

Zwonitzer, Mark Charles Hirshberg Will You Miss Me When I'm Gone?: The Carter Family and Their Legacy in American Music.

Keywords

Articles

Biographies (literary works)

Country musicians

Country musicians -- United States

Country musicians -- United States -- Biography

Discographies

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South

Programs (documents)

Women -- History

Carter, A. P. (Alvin Pleasant), 1891-1960

Carter Family (Musical group)

Carter, Joe, 1927-2005

Carter, Janette

Carter, Helen, 1927-1998

Carter, Anita

Cash, June Carter, 1929-2003

Cash, Johnny

Carter, Sara, 1898-1979

Carter, Maybelle, 1909-1978

Carter Sisters

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged in three series: Series I: Memoirs and Biographies, Series II: Memorabilia, and Series III: Newspaper and Magazine Articles.

Series I: Memoirs and Biographies, 1980-2005, n.d. This series includes two memoirs written by Janette Carter (1983, 2005). The earliest of these two memoirs is autographed by Janette and Joe Carter, and the more recent memoir is autographed by Janette Carter, Flo (A.P. and Sara's first grandchild, the daughter of Gladys) and Johnny Wolfe (Flo's husband), and Dale (Janette's son) and Teresa Jett (Dale's wife). This series also contains a memoir written about A.P. Carter by Gladys Millard (n.d.), as well as a collection of Carter Family sheet music with a biography written by Johnny Cash (1980). This series is arranged chronologically.

Series II: Memorabilia, 1941-2008, n.d. This series is comprised primarily of items relating to the Carter family's music, programs of events involving the family, and photographs. The series has been divided into the following five subseries:

Subseries A: Discographies, n.d. This subseries includes two discographies of the Carter Sisters and Mother Maybelle, one of which includes performances with Chet Atkins. It is likely that these discographies were meant to accompany audio recordings of the listed songs. This subseries is arranged by material type.

Subseries B: Music, 1944-1999, n.d. This subseries includes two books of sheet music (1944, n.d.) and a compact disc recording titled *The Original Carter Family in Texas* (1999). This subseries is arranged by material type.

Subseries C: Programs, 2000-2008, n.d. This subseries includes programs from the 26th, 28th, 29th, 30th, and 34th Annual Carter Family Memorial Festival and Craft Show (2000, 2002-2004, 2008), as well as the Carter

Fold performance schedule for May and June of 2003. This sub-series also contains programs from the dedication ceremony for the A.P. Carter Cabin (2004) and the Janette Carter Memorial Gospel Concert (2008). In addition to event programs, this Sub-series also includes funeral programs for June Carter Cash (2003), Johnny Cash (2003), Joe D. Carter (2005), and Janette Carter (2006). This subseries is arranged chronologically within each event type.

Subseries D: Photographs, 2002, n.d. This subseries contains an undated photograph of the original Carter Family, a small portrait of Maybelle (n.d.), and two photographs taken at the Carter Fold, including one of Johnny Cash and one of June Carter Cash (2002). This subseries is arranged chronologically, with the undated material first.

Subseries E: Miscellaneous, c.1940-2004, n.d. This subseries includes Sara Carter's Musicians' Protective Association Card (c.1940), Maybelle Carter's hunting and fishing license (1975), and a scrapbook page dated May 29, 2004, that features a magazine clipping of the original Carter Family that is signed by Carlene Carter (June's daughter), Connie Smith, and John Carter Cash (Johnny and June's son). In addition, this sub-series also includes A.P.'s "Bible Questions and Answers" booklet (n.d.), Maybelle's Holiday Inn "Inner Circle" card (n.d.), a Carter Fold volunteer badge (n.d.), and a collectible seat cushion from the Carter Fold (n.d.). This subseries is arranged by material type.

Series III. Newspaper and Magazine Articles, 1991-2009. This series includes eight newspaper articles from the Kingsport, Tennessee, *Times News*, as well as three *GoTricities* special publications from the *Times News*. The series also includes two newspaper articles from the *Bristol Herald Courier* and one special supplemental publication from the Scott County, Virginia, *Star*. Although most of these articles discuss the public response to the death of Joe D. Carter, Janette Carter, June Carter Cash, and Johnny Cash, some discuss the impact of the Carter Family in their respective communities, as well as the country music genre. This series also contains an issue of *Life* that celebrates the life of A.P. Carter and an issue of *People* that pays tribute to Johnny Cash. This series is arranged chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series I: Memoirs and Biographies

Unit Date 1980-2005, n.d.

The Original Carter Family. New York: Peer International Corporation

Unit Date 1980

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Carter, Janette. Living with Memories. Hiltons, VA: Carter Family Memorial Music Center

Unit Date 1983

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Carter, Janette. My Clinch Mountain Home. Hiltons, VA: Carter Family Memorial Music Center

Unit Date 2005

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Millard, Gladys. "I Remember Daddy."Sunny Side Sentinel.Carter Family Fan Club

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Series II: Memorabilia

Unit Date 1941-2008, n.d.

Subseries A: Discographies

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

"The Carter Sisters and Mother Maybelle: Their Complete Recordings"

"The Carter Sisters and Mother Maybelle with Chet Atkins: Ozark Radio"

Subseries B: Music

Unit Date 1944-1999, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

The Carter Family Album of Smokey Mountain Ballads. New York: Southern Music Company, Inc.

Unit Date 1944

McMurray, Vance. Original Hill and Country Songs. Gate City, VA: Vance McMurray

Unit Date n.d.

The Original Carter Family in Texas. Brighton, MI: Old Homestead Records

Unit Date 1999

Subseries C: Programs

Unit Date 2000-2008, n.d.

Annual Carter Family Memorial Festival and Craft Show

Unit Date 2000, 2002-2004, 2008

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Carter Fold Performance Schedule

Unit Date 2003

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Funeral programs for June Carter Cash, Johnny Cash, Joe D. Carter, and Janette Carter

Unit Date 2003, 2005-2006

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Dedication of A.P. Carter Cabin

Unit Date 2004

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Memorial Service Program, Janette Carter

Unit Date c.2006

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Janette Carter Memorial Gospel Concert

Unit Date 2008

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Subseries D: Photographs

Unit Date 2002, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Johnny Cash at Carter Fold

Unit Date 2002

June Carter Cash at Carter Fold

Unit Date 2002

The Original Carter Family

Maybelle Carter

Subseries E: Miscellaneous

Unit Date c.1940-2009, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Sara Carter's Musicians' Protective Association Card

Unit Date c.1940

Maybelle Carter's Hunting and Fishing License

Unit Date 1975

Maybelle Carter's Holiday Inn "Inner Circle" Card

A.P. Carter's "Bible Questions and Answers" Booklet

Collectible seat cushion

Carter Fold Volunteer Badge

Scrapbook page

Unit Date 2004

Series III: Newspaper and Magazine Articles

Unit Date 1991-2009

Life magazine article about A.P. Carter

Unit Date December 1991

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Bristol Herald Courier, Special Section

Unit Date July 24, 2002

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

GoTricities special publication, Kingsport, Tennessee, Times News

Unit Date July 26-August 1, 2002

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Bristol Herald Courier

Unit Date May 16, 2003

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Kingsport, Tennessee, Times News articles

Unit Date May-September 2003

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

People magazine article

Unit Date September 29, 2003

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Supplemental publication for Scott County, Virginia, Star

Unit Date August 4, 2004

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Kingsport, Tennessee, Times News articles and GoTricities special publications

Unit Date 2004-2009

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)