

John Wade Kidwell Family Papers A&M 3823

John Wade Kidwell Family Papers
circa 1920s-2013



Title Statement

John Wade Kidwell Family Papers A&M 3823

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

A&M 3823

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

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Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/2273

Unit Date

circa 1920s-2013

Unit Date

circa 1940s-1995

Language

English .

Abstract

Papers of the John Wade Kidwell family of West Virginia. Includes funeral and estate records of John Wade and Dessie Christina Judy Kidwell (ca. 1980s-1990s). Also includes photographs (ca. 1920s-1980s), correspondence (ca. 1940s-1990s), artifacts (1950s-1980s), motion pictures (1950s-1970s), and blueprints of family home. Also includes records regarding the Kidwell's time in Alexandria, VA and Washington, D.C. (1941); John Wade's work at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (1943-1946); and daughter Carol Jean Kidwell Mullenex (1939-1993). Addendum of 2013/07/08 includes additional records regarding Carol Jean Kidwell Mullenex. Addendum of 2013/08/02 includes records regarding two of John Wade and Dessie's children, David Lee and Neal (Keith O'Neal) Kidwell, and their families. Addendum of 2014/07/18 includes material regarding the assassination of President Kennedy; Chris Kidwell; and gospel music performances on recorded to VHS tapes. For more information, please see the Scope and Content note.

Extent

5 Linear Feet 5 ft. (2 record cartons, 15 in. each; 2 document cases, 2.5 in. each; 4 document cases, 5 in. each; 1 flat storage box, 1.5 in.; 1 flat storage box, 3.5 in.)

Physical Location

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Repository

West Virginia and Regional History Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Preferred Citation

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Scope and Contents

Papers of the John Wade Kidwell family of West Virginia. Includes funeral and estate records of John Wade and Dessie Christina Judy Kidwell (ca. 1980s-1990s). Also includes photographs, correspondence, artifacts, 8 mm motion picture film, VHS tapes, and blueprints. Photographs depict family vacations (1965-1988), family portraits (ca. 1920s-1980s), and Christmas (1954-1984). Correspondence includes holiday greeting cards (ca. 1940s-1990s). Artifacts include items which belonged to Dessie (ca. 1970s-1980s) and paintings (early 1950s - 1983). Motion picture film and VHS tapes depict family vacations and other events (1950s-1970s). Blueprints depict the family home built in 1978. Also includes binders of material regarding the Kidwell's time in Alexandria, VA and Washington, D.C. (1941); John Wade's work at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (1943-1946); and of John Wade and Dessie's daughter, Carol Jean Kidwell Mullenex (1939-1993). Many items also have accompanying descriptive notes written by Chris Kidwell (ca. 2012).

Related A&M Collections

3823, 3945

Keywords

Parsons (W. Va.)
Family vacations
Greeting cards
Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald), 1917-1963 -- Assassination
Christian vacation schools
Kidwell family

Description of Subordinate Components

Boxes 1-2. Funeral and estate records of John Wade and Dessie Christina Judy Kidwell (ca. 1980s-1990s). (Records include a VHS tape of Dessie's final message to family (1989)--a DVD copy will be available for patron use). [Restricted until 2019]

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158647

Unit Date ca. 1980s-1990s

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Box 3. Family vacation photos, brochures, and trip journals (1965-1988). Also includes typescript descriptions of the family vacations written by Chris Kidwell (ca. 2012)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158648

Unit Date 1965-2012

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Box 4. Family portraits (ca. 1920s-1980s) and Christmas photos (1954-1984), as well as Kidwell family holiday cards (ca. 1950s-1990s) and school valentines (ca. 1940s and 1960s-1970s). (Most of the valentines belonged to Chris Kidwell, who attended Parsons Grade School in the 1960s-1970s. The earlier valentines belonged to uncles of the Judy family. A typescript description and photos of people related to Parsons Grade School are included.)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158649

Unit Date ca. 1920s-1990s

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Box 5. Kidwell photos, including a photo album documenting trips to Hawaii in 1971 and 1974, as well as a spiral notebook used by Chris Kidwell during his junior and senior years at Parsons High School (ca. 1977-1979). Also included are items belonging to Dessie Judy Kidwell: a Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union pin; a Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry 50th anniversary keychain; an Order of the Eastern Star emblem; and the book Ritual of the Order of the Eastern Star: As Amended at the Triennial Assembly of the General Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star Held in Cleveland, Ohio, September 1976 (Washington, D.C.: General Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, 1976)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158650

Unit Date 1971-1979

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Box 6. 20 reels of Kidwell home movies on 8 mm film, and three 8 mm film reel boxes which serve as exemplars of photographica. (Some of the footage is of the Judy family. The following is a list of the contents of the motion picture reels, according to the information on their original boxes.)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158651

Unit Date 1950s-1970s

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

O'Neal and David Christmas

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158657

Unit Date 1957-?

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 1 (Reel)

Snow in Cannan, Chris and Dana tulip buds, Dick and Dall playing horseshoe

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158658

Unit Date 1960

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 2 (Reel)

Chris and O'Neal Winter Snow

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158659

Unit Date [ca. 1963?]

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 3 (Reel)

Chris and O'Neal in Woods at Elk Lick,

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158660

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 4 (Reel)

Earl's farewell party, and Chris and O'Neal swimming party, (our neighbors)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158661

Unit Date 1961

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 5 (Reel)

Dess Kidwell

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158662

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 6 (Reel)

No information given

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158663

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 7 (Reel)

Kanenetha [?] Birthday

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158664

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 8 (Reel)

"Sunday Dinner" at Grandma and Granddad (Dick Shanon), Dess and family

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158665

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 9 (Reel)

Wade, O'Neal, and Chris at the Beach

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158666

Unit Date August 29, 1965

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 10 (Reel)

O'Neal and Chris, age 9 and 6, at swimming pool motel?

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158667

Unit Date August 1965

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 11 (Reel)

The Ocean (Storm Alma [Hurricane Alma?])

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158668

Unit Date 1966

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 12 (Reel)

Oregon Inlet fish

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158669

Unit Date August 29, 1965

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 13 (Reel)

Boys at Beach

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158670

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 14 (Reel)

Beach - Canada

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158671

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 15 (Reel)

Canada

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158672

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 16 (Reel)

Wyoming

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158673

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 17 (Reel)

Wyoming

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158674

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 18 (Reel)

Wyoming

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158675

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 19 (Reel)

Hawaiian

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158676

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 20 (Reel)

Box 7. Two paintings on wood depicting butterflies and flowers, made by Dessie (1983). Also included are photographs and blueprints of the "dream home" that Wade built for Dessie and family, located at 409 Jameson Avenue, Parsons, WV (ca. 1978)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158652

Unit Date ca. 1978, 1983

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Box 8. Four binders

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158653

Unit Date ca. 1930s-2013

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Correspondence (1941) and photographs (ca. 1930s, 1941) from the Kidwell family's brief time in Alexandria, VA. They lived there while Mr. Kidwell worked with eagles at the Washington Zoo

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158677

Unit Date ca. 1930s, 1941

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 1 (Item)

Printed material, ephemera, correspondence, photographs, personnel records, and a newspaper (1938-1946; includes facsimiles) from the time when John Wade Kidwell worked as an Engineering Aide Trainee, a civilian job at Wright and/or Patterson Fields for which he trained at West Virginia Wesleyan College. He eventually moved the family to Dayton, OH, and became Property and Supply Officer during the war. The materials pertain to both his professional life and family life

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158678

Unit Date 1938-1946

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 2 (Item)

Papers of Carol Jean Kidwell Mullenex (March 5, 1939 - August 6, 1993), the oldest child of John Wade and Dessie Judy Kidwell. She reportedly suffered from mental illness, possibly paranoid schizophrenia. Her papers include material related to arrangements for her reinterment in Parsons City Cemetery (2011-2012), financial papers (1970s), and personal correspondence (1971-1980). Much of the correspondence is to Carol from her boyfriend Ed Matthews, and documents their troubled relationship

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158679

Unit Date March 5, 1939-2012

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 3 (Item)

Addendum of 2013/07/08 containing records regarding Carol Jean Kidwell Mullenex (also went by Schilansky/Schelesky) and her daughter Dana. Includes a typescript biography of Carol, photographs of Carol and Dana, valentine greeting cards and other correspondence, baby booties, and school records. Also includes two WWII ration books

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158680

Unit Date ca. 1939-2013

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 4 (Item)

Box 9. Addendum of 2013/08/02, which includes records regarding the families of David Lee and Lisa Jon Schroeder Kidwell, and Neal and Phyllis Kidwell. David Lee Kidwell was the third child of John Wade and Dessie; Neal (Keith O'Neal) was their fourth child. Includes greeting cards, photographs, clippings, letters, computer printouts, and children's crafts

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158654

Unit Date ca. 1947-2009

Mixed Materials 9 (Box)

Box 10. Addendum of 2014/07/18, which includes two items regarding the assassination of President Kennedy, a copy of LIFE Magazine from 29 November 1963, and a copy of the Parsons Advocate from 26 November 1963; programs and certificates regarding piano recitals and vacation bible schools attended by Chris Kidwell (1966-1969); and two VHS tapes of gospel music, one of the Shahan family performing in Parsons, West Virginia (1988) and one titled "Hagans Homecoming" featuring the Stephen Pyle family which includes a list of song titles (2001)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158655

Unit Date 1963-2001

Mixed Materials 10 (Box)

Box 11. An oil painting by Carol Jean Kidwell depicting a river scene (early 1950s); and an aerial painting of the family home at 409 Jameson Avenue (ca. 1978), which has both a photo of Wade and Dessie and a descriptive note about the home on the back

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/158656

Unit Date early 1950s-ca. 1978

Mixed Materials unboxed (Box)