

IHLC MS 234

**Riehl-Thompson Family  
Papers, 1853-2010**

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**Riehl-Thompson Family.  
Papers, 1853-2010.**

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Box 1

**1. Riehl Family**

Riehl Family History

Emil A. "E. A." Riehl (1837-1926)

Biographical Material

*National Cyclopedia of American Biography*, entry, 1929

Obituaries, 1925

Oversize folder h001

Biographical sketches, tributes and articles, circa 1920s

Box 1 (cont.)

Speech in memory of Riehl and Reverend James R. Reasoner, given by  
Joseph Cullen Blair, Dean of Horticulture, University of Illinois, 1925

Erwin A. Thompson, "The Legend," 2004

Martha Jean Wieland, "A Man Before His Time: The Story of Emil A.  
Riehl"

Day books, 1863-1925

Correspondence, 1853 and 1922.

Correspondents include Amelia Riehl (sister), Nicholas Riehl (father), and  
Olive Riehl (granddaughter). One letter regards Nicholas Riehl's death.

Caroline "Lena" Riehl Humphrey (sister of E.A. Riehl)

Correspondence, photograph, news clippings, 1913-1933

Amelia "Mim" Riehl (1877-1954, daughter of E.A. Riehl)

Correspondence, 1921-1922, 1935, 1947, 1952

Correspondents include Alice Riehl, Anna Riehl, and Emma Riehl (her  
sisters), and Archie Riehl (nephew). Subjects include family news, chicken  
farming, the low quality of fruit sold by merchants in St. Louis, and young  
Erwin Thompson's life on the E. A. Riehl Farm at Godfrey, Ill. [Erwin's birth  
nearly killed his mother, Anna Riehl Thompson. Afterward, the poor health  
of both mother and baby caused the family and doctors to decide that it  
would be best for her recovery if Erwin were raised at the family farm by  
Anna's sisters.]

Edwin H. Riehl (1868-1951, son of E.A. Riehl)  
Biographical Material

Oversize folder h001 (cont.)

Newspaper profile, *Colman's Rural World*, January 22, 1922

Box 1 (cont.)

Biographical newspaper clipping, 1923

Emma Riehl Gibbens (1872-1956, daughter of E.A. Riehl)

Correspondence, 1914-1922, to "Annie." On family news, chicken farming, fruits and nuts.

George W. Gibbens (1860-1948, husband of Emma Riehl Gibbens)

Oversize folder h001 (cont.)

Obituary, 1948

Box 1 (cont.)

Photograph

*Sectarianism is Sin*, Eighth edition, circa 1950s, 8 pages.

Frank C. Riehl (1867-1932, son of E.A. Riehl)

Biographical Material

Oversize folder h001 (cont.)

Newspaper profile, 1926

Obituaries, 1932

Box 1 (cont.)

Calling card

Correspondence, 1902-1910, 1920s, 1927

Correspondents include Emma Riehl Gibbens (sister), E. A. Riehl, and Mathilda Riehl (mother). Subjects include business trips to Canada (Winnipeg), Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, North Dakota, Texas, and the American Midwest, South, and West. [Frank C. Riehl first worked for the Union Metallic Cartridge Company, of Bridgeport, Conn. Later, he worked for the Western Cartridge Company, an ammunition manufacturer. In that position, he was transferred to Hawaii and the Philippines in the late 1920s.]

Publications

*Poems of the Piasa*, Alton, Ill.: Melling & Gaskins, 1896. Cataloged: 811 R44p.

*Runes of the Red Race*, Alton, Ill.: Melling & Gaskins, 1899. Cataloged: 811 R44r.

"The Passing of a Pioneer," poem on the death of E. A. Riehl, 1925

*The Book of the Pacific Indians: "A Trapshooting Tribe*, 1932. Photocopied pages include picture of and poem by Frank C. Riehl.

Jessie Riehl (wife of Frank C. Riehl)

Correspondence, 1902, 1925, 1927.

Correspondents include E. A. Riehl, Emma Riehl Gibbens, and Mathilda Riehl (Frank's mother). Subjects include family news; the

- death of E. A. Riehl; life in Honolulu; the trip from Honolulu to Sydney, Australia; and life in Australia, including plant life.
- Emmett Adolph Riehl (1899-1970, son of Frank C. Riehl)  
Obituary, 1970
- Stella Riehl (daughter of Frank C. Riehl)  
Correspondence, circa 1920s, circa 1940s, 1971.  
Correspondents include Alice Riehl (aunt), Amelia "Aunt Mim" Riehl, and Erwin and Ruth Thompson (cousins). Subjects include family news and tax advice.
- Frank C. Riehl Family  
Letters, writings, biographical material (typescripts)
- Helen "Nell" Riehl McLennan (1869-1925, daughter of E.A. Riehl)  
Biographical Material

Oversize folder h001 (cont.)

Obituaries, 1925

Box 1 (cont.)

- Correspondence, 1921-1922  
Correspondents include Anna Riehl Thompson and Emma Riehl Gibbens (her sisters). Subjects include family news.
- Lectures  
Address at the Farmers' Institute, Jerseyville, Illinois, February 8-9, 1898
- Julia "Judie" Riehl  
Correspondence To Anna Riehl Thompson (sister), 1927. On family news.
- Walter Riehl (1889-1957, son of E.A. Riehl)  
Correspondence and Writings, 1898-1899, 1921  
Correspondents include Amelia Riehl and Judie (Julia) Riehl (sisters), and Mathilda Riehl (mother). Subjects include family news and school. Walter was a little boy at the time of the earliest letters.
- Jack London Riehl (1922-2010, son of Walter Riehl)  
*Heart & Soul: An Inspiring Collection of Light Verse on Life, Love, Faith, and the Military*, Bloomington, Ind.: iUniverse, 2010. Cataloged: 811 R4442h.
- Riehl Family  
Photographs  
With annotations, circa 1860-2004  
Without annotations, reproductions circa 1995, originals circa 1910s-1950s.  
Includes photos of Amelia Riehl, Caroline Riehl Humphrey, E.A. Riehl, and Mathilda Roesch Riehl.  
E. A. Riehl Railroad Station, circa 1920s  
General Photographs, circa 1910s-1920s, 1943.  
Mostly of the Mississippi River and train stations.
- Ephemera  
Postcards, 1903-1912  
Other Printed Material, including \$5 bill of Homestead, Pennsylvania "Monopoly Bank," 1892

Poems, authors unknown

## 2. E.A. Riehl Farm

The farm, called "Evergreen Heights," was located in Godfrey, Illinois.

### About E. A. Riehl Farm

"About E.A. Riehl Farm, now Owned and Operated by Three Women."

Typescript, six pages, 1929

### Administrative Records

Address book, containing contact information for farmers, dealers, and customers, circa 1920s-30s

### Lists

Customers (alphabetical), circa 1930s

Customers-Chestnut Trees, 1933

Customer reports and testimonials

Dealers, circa 1930s-1940s

Farms and nurseries, 1913, 1928-1935

Scions and trees at Riehl Farm, 1924-1936

Trees produced by other growers, 1928

Memo Book, containing notes on customer orders and trees planted on Riehl Farm, 1936-1944

Nut tree tests, 1927, 1930-1931, 1934

State of Illinois Department of Agriculture Certificate, 1947

### Correspondence

#### Emil A. Riehl

Subjects include the horticulture of nuts and fruits, professional organizations, and the day-to-day operations of the E. A. Riehl Farm.

Letter Books, 1860-1880s and 1903-1906

Correspondents include business associates.

1893-1899

Correspondents include Henry M. Dunlap (Illinois State Horticultural Society), Charles A. Green (Green's Nursery Co., Rochester, Illinois), and J. Webster (Webster's Fruit Garden & Nursery, Centralia, Illinois).

1900-1908

Correspondents include G. B. Brackett (United States Department of Agriculture), L. R. Bryant (Illinois State Horticultural Society), Luther Burbank (Santa Rosa, California), George W. Endicott (Horticultural Society of Southern Illinois), John S. Kerr (Sherman Community Nurseries, Texas), J. W. Killen (Plymouth Roller Mills, Felton, Delaware), H. E. Van Deman (American Nut and Fruit Co., Philadelphia).

1910-1913

Correspondents include George W. Endicott, J. F. Jones ("The Nut Tree Specialist," Lancaster, Pennsylvania), and H. E. Van Deman.

1914-1916

Correspondents include H. W. Collingwood (The Rural New-Yorker), R. B. Endicott (Horticultural Society of Southern Illinois, with a

newspaper obituary of George W. Endicott), F. N. Fagan (Pennsylvania State College of Horticulture) Stephen A. Forbes (Illinois State Entomologist), S. M. Huddleson (USDA), J. F. Jones, Thomas P. Littlepage (attorney, Washington, D.C.), J. G. Rush (West Willow, Pennsylvania), Ralph T. Scott (American Nut Journal), J. Russell Smith (University of Pennsylvania), and Henry Stabler (Washington, D.C.).

1917-19

Correspondents include Willard G. Bixby (Northern Nut Growers' Association), H. M. Collingwood, R. B. Endicott, J. F. Jones, Robert T. Morris (New York City), and Lloyd C. Stark (Stark Bros. Nurseries and Orchards Co., Louisiana, Missouri).

1920

Correspondents include E. A. Bolster (California Mountain Fruit Colorado), B. Buchanan (Farmingdale, Illinois), G. H. Corsan (Toronto), R. B. Endicott, George H. Howe (New York Agricultural Experiment Station), and J. F. Jones.

1921

Correspondents include Willard G. Bixby (Northern Nut Growers' Association), Oscar Blackmore (Davis, Illinois), G. H. Corsan, G. F. Gravatt (USDA), Henry B. Graves (Detroit, Michigan), C. P. Halligan (Michigan Agricultural College Department of Horticulture), H. Heffner (Highland Chestnut Grove, Leeper, Pennsylvania), John H. Heide, Henry D. Spencer (Chicago), and G. A. Zimmerman (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania).

1922

Correspondents include William A. Beaty, B. Buchanan, G. H. Corsan, J. F. Jones, A. E. Kundered ("Originator of the Ruffled Gladiolus," Goshen, Indiana), Harvey Losee, W. F. Pfeifer (Fayette, Iowa), Burr A. Selby (Washington, D.C.), S. W. Snyder, Henry D. Spencer, L. C. Stark, Paul C. Stark, and G. A. Zimmerman (Piketown, Pennsylvania).

1923

Correspondents include L. F. Dintelmann (Belleville, Illinois), J. M. George (Keystone St. Nurseries, Pittsburgh), Henry B. Graves, F. O. Harrington (Iowa State Horticultural Society), J. F. Jones, C. E. Parsons (Felix Gillet Nursery, Nevada City, California), Reno Rosenfeld (Rosenfeld Peony Gardens, Omaha), S. W. Snyder, and A. M. Whitford (Whitford Nursery, Farina, Illinois).

1924-1925

Correspondents include A. S. Colby (University of Illinois), Charles L. Gowe (Omaha), L. R. Johnson (Normal Fruit Farm, Cape Girardeau, Missouri), J. F. Jones, Robert H. Montgomery (N.Y.), Robert T. Morris, J. Russell Smith, S. W. Snyder, Paul C. Stark, W. D. Sydnor ("Grape Vine Specialist," Ellerson, Virginia), and Conrad Vollertsen (Rochester, New York).

1911-1924

From C. A. Reed, Northern Nut Growers' Association (includes some letters related to but not addressed to E. A. Riehl).

1917

Form letter from Woodrow Wilson, seeking support for the U.S. war effort.

#### Amelia Riehl

Subjects include the horticulture of nuts and fruits, professional organizations, and the day-to-day operations of the E. A. Riehl Farm.

1903, 1925-1934, 1944-1947

Correspondents include Seward Berhow (Berhow Nurseries, Huxley, Iowa), S. Bernath (Bernath's Nursery, Poughkeepsie, New York), William G. Bixby, J. T. Bregger (Luther Burbank Experimental Farms, Sebastopol, California), B. Buchanan, G. H. Corsan, Billy R. Cramer (USDA), H. R. Crosland (Eugene, Oregon), L. C. Hemingway (The Country Home Magazine), J. C. Kopitke (USDA), D. L. MacFarlane (MacFarlane Nut Co., Oakland), Louis Miller, State of Michigan Dept. of Conservation), J. A. Neilson (Michigan State University Dept. of Horticulture), M. B. Proctor (Monroe City, Missouri), J. Russell Smith, Hugh A. Steavenson (USDA), Edwin C. Tyson, and Conrad Vollertsen.

1928-1934

From C. A. Reed, Northern Nuts Growers' Association.

1930-1933

From N. F. Drake, Fayetteville, Arkansas. Includes letters and documents related to nut farming. Not addressed to Amelia Riehl.

1947-1954

From University of Illinois correspondents (Joseph Cullen Blair, A. S. Colby, H. R. Kemmerer), and Lloyd Morey's tribute to Henry F. Rusk.

1944-1946

Postcards from business associates.

#### Finances and Orders

1893, 1897, 1902 1907-1908

1919-1921

1922

1923-1925

1941-1946

(for additional financial records, see "Ledgers" in Box 2)

#### Honors and Awards

Awards, including ribbons

#### Oversize folder h003

E. A. Riehl, Honorable Mention for Persimmons, Pan-American Exposition, Buffalo, New York, 1901.

#### Box 1 (cont.)

1894, 1903, 1910-1922

1910-1922

Notes on Agriculture (from farmers, dealers, and customers)

On flowers, 1899, 1921-1924, 1947

On boones, butternuts, filberts, heartnuts, hickories, pecans, and other nuts, circa 1925-1932

On chestnuts, circa 1924-1933

On walnuts, circa 1923-1931

Photographs

E. A. Riehl Farm Scenes, circa 1870s-1995

Hulling Scenes, circa 1930s

J. W. Meyers Orchard, circa 1920s

Nut Trees on E. A. Riehl Farm, 1913-1928

Professional Organizations

*Proceedings*, Alton Horticultural Society, 1869-1970. Photocopies.

Illinois State Horticultural Society

*Newsletter*, No. 7, November 10, 1929

Oversize folder h004

Two photographs. One taken on the steps of the University of Illinois Auditorium, 1911.

Box 1 (cont.)

Northern Nut Growers' Association

Annual meeting minutes and programs, 1925, 1932, 1934

Promotional material, 1927-circa 1930s

Box 2

Publications, Writings, Notes

Amelia Riehl, 1925-1929

Oversize folder h002

Emil A. Riehl, 1912-1925.

Box 2 (cont.)

Publicity and media material

Advertisements and brochures for Riehl Products, circa 1920s

Oversize folder h002 (cont.)

Newspaper and magazine articles regarding Emil A. Riehl and the Riehl Farm, 1914, 1916, 1919, 1923, 1929, circa 1920s.

Box 2 (cont.)

Published Material Collected by Riehl Family

Brochures and pamphlets regarding nut farming, circa 1920s-1930s

Oversize folder h002 (cont.)

Newspaper and magazine clippings on nuts and related agricultural products, circa 1920s.

Box 2 (cont.)

United States Department of Agriculture

Press releases regarding nut permits, 1925

## Ledgers

E.A. Riehl Daybooks

1863-1867

1869-1884

Account ledgers

1871

1873-1885. Expense book for hired workers.

1887-1891

1896. Contains information on boarders and fruit crop.

1911-1921

1921-January 1925 (E.A. Riehl's death)

1925-1940. Contains information on chestnut harvest, 1916-1939.

Order books

1932-1939

1939

Boarders

(Note: These boarders were summer visitors, mostly from St. Louis, who lived in cottages near the Riehl home at Evergreen Heights.)

1893-1895

1895-1910

1901-1912

Military Uniform Brass Buttons

Wood Carvings of Animals by Erwin A. Thompson

Box 3

### 3. Thompson Family

Thompson Family History

Thompson Family Tree and History

Anna Riehl Thompson (1881-1929, daughter of Emil A. Riehl. Link between the Riehl and Thompson families.)

Biographical Material

Biographical sketch from The Alumni Record of the University of Illinois, 1918

Oversize folder h002 (cont.)

Obituary, 1929.

Box 3 (cont.)

Funeral program and poems, 1929

Sympathy notes about the death of Anna Riehl Thompson, 1929

Letters from College (usually signed as "Annie")

1900

1901 (January-May, June-December, typescripts 1900-1901.

Correspondents include "Folks" (E. A. and Mathilda Riehl), "Girls" (sisters Amelia Riehl, Emma Riehl Gibbens, Helen Riehl McLennan, and Julia Riehl), "Judie" (Julia Riehl), "Mim" (Amelia Riehl), and "Naughty Boys" (brothers Edwin, Frank, and Walter Riehl). Subjects include University of Illinois courses (mostly chemistry and biology);

instructors, such as Clarence W. Alvord, Isabel Bevier, Thomas J. Burrill, Thomas Arkle Clark, Eugene Davenport, and Stephen A. Forbes; vignettes about University Presidents Thomas J. Burrill and Andrew S. Draper; botanical field trips (often to Urbana's Crystal Lake Park and to the Sangamon River); friends, family, and acquaintances; University clubs, such as the Agricultural Club and Choral Society; Sunday School; Halloween on campus; the annual May Day celebration; and George Eliot's Silas Marner.

1902 (January-May, June-December, typescripts)

Correspondents include "Folks" (E. A. and Mathilda Riehl), "Girls" (sisters Amelia Riehl, Emma Riehl Gibbens, Helen Riehl McLennan, and Julia Riehl), and "Mim" (Amelia Riehl). Subjects include Anna Riehl's difficulty in making friends; her frustrations over lacking a suitor; her humorous adaptation of Poe's "The Raven" for a valentine; Bronte's *Jane Eyre*; performing in *Faust* and "Hiawatha;" singing Chemistry songs; seeing the Ringling Bros. Circus; attending the "little farce" of Shakespearean women; going on outings to the Sangamon River and, in Urbana, to the Deaconess home (the Cunningham Children's Home, supported by Methodist women); new buildings on campus, such as Chemistry (Davenport Hall) and the Observatory; attending a Jane Addams lecture; courses in Household Science (which she loved) and Physics (with which she struggled); and friends, family, and acquaintances.

1903 (January-May, June-December, typescripts 1903-1904)

Correspondents include "Folks" (E. A. and Mathilda Riehl) and "Mim" (Amelia Riehl). Subjects include Anna Riehl's commitment to missionary work; her willingness and ability to speak at religious gatherings; J. Arthur "Taters" Thompson; the celebration of Longfellow's birthday; the Campus Sing; the annual May Day celebration; the Chicago Tribune cartoonist John T. McCutcheon; being invited to a supper party at a sorority; her friendship with Prof. and Mrs. J. C. Blair; conversations with Thomas Arkle Clark about her writing; and friends, family, and acquaintances.

Korea Mission Trip of J. Arthur and Anna Riehl Thompson, Methodist missionaries.

Correspondents include E. A. and Mathilda Riehl (Anna's parents), Amelia "Mim" Riehl, Emma Riehl Gibbens, and Julia "Judie" Riehl (Anna's sisters), Katie Thompson and May Thompson (J. Arthur's sisters), "Nettie" Thompson (J. Arthur's mother), Walter Thompson (J. Arthur's brother), and William J. Thompson (J. Arthur's father). Subjects include the engagement of Anna Riehl and J. Arthur Thompson; their commitment to one another and to their missionary work; daily life in Songdo and Wonsan, Korea; Anna's trouble with her eyes; the experience of raising their son Ralph in Korea; the difficulties of maintaining the household (e.g., making clothes and raising food in their garden); J. Arthur's design and construction of buildings, supervising a labor force of 200; and differences between Korean and American life.

Letters and related papers  
 1907-1908  
 Typescripts, 1907-1908  
 1909-1910  
 Typescripts, 1909-1910  
 1911  
 Typescripts, 1911

Oversize folder h002 (cont.)

Scroll, 1912

Box 3 (cont.)

Typescripts, 1912-1916  
 Newspaper article transcripts about the Thompsons' time in Korea, 1911-1916  
 "Life and Letters of Anna Riehl Thompson," *Korean Mission Field*, 10:9 (September 1914); letters (1912-1915); *The Illinois Agriculturist*, 8:8 (April 1904).  
 Print of a photograph negative of native and missionary buildings in Korea, 1909  
 Correspondence and related papers from Chicago Training School for City, Home, and Foreign Missions, 1921-1925  
 Poems and Other Writings  
 Poems  
 Rejection notes for writing submissions, 1914-1924  
 J. (James) Arthur Thompson (1883-1966)  
 Biographical sketch from *The Alumni Record of the University of Illinois*, 1918  
 Correspondence from family  
 (Note: Most folders include subjects such as family news, work on the family farm, church, and social activities in the Rushville, Illinois, area. During this period, J. Arthur Thompson was studying at the University of Illinois.)  
 1900  
 Correspondents include Clarence Thompson (brother), Katie Thompson (sister), Margaret E. Thompson (grandmother), May Thompson (sister), and Nettie Thompson (mother).  
 1901  
 Correspondents include Lorena Thompson Myers (aunt), Anna Thompson (sister), Clarence Thompson, Katie Thompson, May Thompson, Nettie Thompson, Perlie Thompson (cousin), Roy Thompson (brother), and William J. Thompson (father).  
 1902-1903  
 Correspondents include Mrs. A. B. Moberly, Charles Thompson (grandfather), and Jesse Thompson (cousin).  
 January-March 1904  
 Correspondents include J. A. Long (uncle), Clarence Thompson, Katie Thompson, May Thompson, Nettie Thompson, Roy Thompson, and William J. Thompson. Additional subjects include a measles outbreak in Rushville, Illinois, and J. Arthur Thompson's plan to go to Africa as

a missionary. [His parents were very upset by this plan, with his father's letters stating disgust for missionaries and his mother stating that J. Arthur was "dead to us." Swayed by his parents, he decided not to go to Africa.]

April-September 1904

Correspondents include May Thompson and Nettie Thompson. Nettie Thompson mentions that the family bought a telephone, and that she may visit the St. Louis World's Fair.

October 1904-June 1905

Correspondents include Anna Thompson (sister), Katie Thompson, Nettie Thompson, and William J. Thompson. Additional subjects include the St. Louis World's Fair, the Illinois State Fair, and J. Arthur Thompson's promotion at the Illini (now the Daily Illini).

Typescripts, 1900-1901, 1904-1906 (incomplete)

1963

One letter each from Gary and Janet Thompson (grandchildren).

Correspondence to Lelia Black, Brown County, Illinois

(Note: Written when J. Arthur Thompson was studying at the University of Illinois.)

1900-1903

Subjects include, in chronological order, the presidential election of 1900; the scene in Champaign on election night; Illinois politics; social life at the Champaign YMCA; clubs; boarding houses; church; Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show; missionary speakers; students' misbehavior on Halloween; attendance of an Illinois football game; sleigh rides; a freak accident in which J. Arthur's eye was injured when a spark came out of a forge during a class; the death of Uncle Theodore Gresclaude in a house fire near Rushville; and the hazing of freshmen by upperclassmen (e.g., throwing freshmen into the Boneyard Creek).

Typescripts, 1900-1903

Poems

"Dad's Diamond Jubilee" (poem for father's 75th birthday), 1933

"Poems by Willard N. Tobie," compiled by J. Arthur Thompson, 1906

Other Papers

List and correspondence with A. D. Fretueg regarding pictures of a picnic, 1914-1915

Family Christmas exchange list, 1933

Notice of special meeting of stockholders of Gladacres, Inc. (Rushville, Illinois), 1935

Arthur Family

Arthur Family History

Obituary of Abraham Arthur (1824-1898, grandfather of J. Arthur Thompson)

Funeral notice, George Calvin Arthur (1838-1907)

Margaret Jeanette "Nettie" Arthur Thompson (1862-1946, mother of J. Arthur Thompson)

Correspondence with William J. Thompson, 1880-1881

Newspaper clippings of poems, 1880-1881

Obituary, 1946

Poem, "Mother" (written on the birthday of Nettie Thompson), by Essie Thompson Beckner (sister of J. Arthur Thompson), 1993

Obituary of Jesse D. Thompson (1900-1946, brother of J. Arthur Thompson), 1946

Postcard from Emma Arthur to Walter Thompson (1890-1984, brother of J. Arthur Thompson), 1915

Diary (photocopy) of a trip to South America with a shipment of purebred cattle, August-November 1919, written by Winford Thompson (first cousin of J. Arthur Thompson)

Correspondence of Alice Thompson Johnson (daughter of J. Arthur Thompson) 1933-1942

Correspondents include Emma Riehl Gibbens (aunt), Irene Thompson (niece), J. Arthur Thompson, and Ralph Thompson (brother). Subjects include business school; family news; Alice's social life in Rock Island, Normal, and Rantoul; various jobs (housework, office work, retail, work in an ice cream parlor); Alice's decision to turn down the marriage proposal of a man 20 years her senior; the costs of food, bus and taxi fares, and doctor bills; and the possibility of Alice's marriage to John W. Johnson, an Air Force pilot stationed at Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul.

1953-1962

Correspondents include Eleanor Thompson Dodds (sister), J. Arthur Thompson, and Ralph and Dorothy Thompson. Subjects include Air Force life in Greenland, where Alice's husband was stationed; life in Las Vegas, where the Johnsons were transferred in 1955; Alice's ill health (lung problem); and life in Ft. Myers, Florida, where the Johnsons were transferred in 1959.

Box 4

Eleanor Thompson Dodds (daughter of J. Arthur Thompson)

Correspondence, 1930-1940

Correspondents include Alice Thompson Johnson (sister), "Aunties," Emma Riehl Gibbens (aunt), and Julia "Judie" Riehl (aunt). Subjects include family life, married life, and new babies.

Poem, "Our Blacksmith Shop"

Dodds Family Tree, compiled by Erwin A. Thompson

Ralph J. Thompson (son of J. Arthur Thompson)

Correspondence, 1940-1944.

Correspondents include Erwin and Alice Thompson (siblings). Subjects include family news.

Diary, "Trip to Illinois" (from Tacoma, Washington). Recorded by Ralph's wife. August-September 1947. Transcript, 9 pages.

Writings

"History of Gladacres, Inc." and other writings by Ralph Thompson, Eleanor Thompson Dodds, and Erwin A. Thompson, including photographs.

Willard Thompson (1914-1949, son of J. Arthur Thompson)

Correspondence

Postcard from friends, 1933

1934-1940

Correspondents include J. Arthur Thompson and "Sis." Subjects include Willard's literary pursuits, journalism, and a hospital stay.

Erwin A. Thompson (1915-2015, son of J. Arthur Thompson)

Biographical Material

Erwin/Ruth Thompson Family History. 305 pages, appendices.

Newspaper articles and press releases about Erwin A. Thompson, 2006-2007, 2010

Correspondence, 1912, 1925-1929, 1932, 1939-1945

Correspondents include Alice Thompson (sister), Anna Riehl Thompson (mother), Eleanor Thompson Dodds (sister), J. Arthur Thompson, and Ruth Thompson (wife). Early letters refer to family news, friends, animals and crops, and life on the E. A. Riehl Farm. As a small boy, Erwin lived at his grandfather's farm. Later letters, dating from Erwin's service in World War II, discuss his short stories and battle injuries (shrapnel), and his re-reading of the Bible.

Writings

Published

*The Home Place \* The Long Rows*. Novosibirsk, Russia: Sibirsky Khronograf, 1995. Call number: 813 T3728h.

*The Lean Years, Books I*. Novosibirsk, Russia: Sibirsky Khronograf, 1994, Call number: 813 T3728L vol. 1.

*The Lean Years, Books II*. Novosibirsk, Russia: Sibirsky Khronograf, 1995. Call number: 813 T3728L vol. 2.

*The Second Mile*. Freeman, SD: Pine Hill Press, 1994. Call number: 813 T3728s.

*Worth Remembering: The Poetry of Our Heritage*. Bloomington, Ind.: iUniverse, 2009. Call number: 811.08 N899.

Unpublished

(Note: Many of these works include family photographs and other illustrations.)

"Kentucky"

"Ladies Choice," "Have I Told You Lately?," "The Throw Back"

Box 5

"Making the River Road"

"The Old Bluffline"

Poems

Reflection on E.A. Riehl, 1995

"Shannon"

"A Woman Before Her Time" (about Amelia Riehl)

Cartoons, accompanied by poems and text, on each side of five pages, circa 1970s, 1979

- Writings on Janet Riehl's *Riehl Life* blog, 2007, 2010. Includes interviews with and poems by Erwin A. Thompson
- Ruth Thompson (1916-2006, wife of Erwin A. Thompson)
- Obituaries
  - Correspondence, 1942, 1944
    - Correspondents include Emma Riehl Gibbens and Court Johnston (Ruth's father). Subjects include family news.
- Janet Riehl (formerly Thompson, 1948-, daughter of Erwin A. and Ruth Thompson)
- Newspaper articles and press releases about Janet Riehl, 2006
  - Christmas letters, 2007, 2010
  - Lecture, "Heritage: Address for Poet Laureate of Lake County Reading," Lakeport, California, April 1, 2006.
  - Writings
    - Sightlines: A Poet's Diary*. Bloomington, Ind.: iUniverse, 2006. Call number: 811 R4441s.
    - "Nesting: Tribute to My Folks: *Selections from Sightlines: A Poet's Diary*," 2006
    - "The Stories Behind the Photos in *Sightlines: A Poet's Diary*," 2006
    - "The Book Just Loved Me" (article) and "Crocus" (poem), on Yvonne Perry's "Author's Corner" website, 2007
- Julia Thompson (1943-2004, daughter of Erwin A. and Ruth Thompson)
- Biographical Material
    - Memorial service and related correspondence, 2004
- Thompson Family
- Photographs
    - With annotations
      - Reproductions, 1995
      - Originals circa 1850s-2004
    - Without annotations
      - Reproductions, 1995
      - Originals, 1904-1905, circa 1932-1933, circa 1970s. Includes photos of Anna Riehl Thompson, Erwin and Ruth Thompson, J. Arthur Thompson, Julia Thompson, and Ralph J. Thompson.
  - Family Reunions
    - Arthur-Thompson Family Reunions, newspaper clippings, 1937
    - Poem, "Time and Change, by J. Arthur Thompson
  - Ephemera
    - View book, *Versailles et Trianon: pages d'art et d'histoire*, by Pierre de Nilhac, 1909. 36 views.
    - Program, "Gypsy River," Boys and Girls' Glee Club of Rushville, Illinois High School, 1928
    - Newspaper clippings collected by the Thompson family
- Erma Cramer (friend of Ruth Thompson)
- "My School Days and My Life," 2004