Finding Aid

➢ Navarre-Williams Family Papers, 1815-1980s

MSS-042

Size: 1.5 lin. feet

Provenance: Helen Williams Lang inherited the material in this collection from her father and mother and, probably in a few cases, from her father’s first cousin Gabrielle Navarre Houk. She donated part of this collection to The Ward M. Canaday Center of The University of Toledo Libraries in 1983. In 1989, Helen Lang’s daughter, Judy Lang, donated the remainder of the collection to The Canaday Center.

Access: open

Collection Summary: Collection includes deeds, other land and property documents, marriage and religious records, tax receipts, school memorabilia, a few Civil War and Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) documents and letters, newspaper clippings, and photographs.

Subjects: Social Life and Customs

Related Collections:

Copyright: As copies of Federal records, copyright probably does not apply to entries in this volume. The original application files are part of Record Group 15, Records of the Veterans Administration, in the National Archives. Researchers bear full legal responsibility for the acquisition to publish from any part of said collection per Title 17, United States Code. The Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections may reserve the right to intervene as intermediary at its own discretion.

Completed by: Processed by Paul M. Gifford April 1986, and Nola Skousen, September 1989

Introduction

This collection consists of material relating to the family of Alexis (Alexander) Navarre (1800-1868) and his descendants. The Navarre family was among the earliest settlers of Oregon Township, and was prominent in the history of northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. The collection includes deeds, other land and property documents, marriage and religious records, tax receipts, school memorabilia, a few Civil War and Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) documents and letters, newspaper clippings, and photographs.

These papers would be useful to the researcher interested in the early settlement of Oregon Township and Toledo, in land tenure among the early French-Canadian settlers, and in 19th century life in and around Presque Isle.
Toledo has long held Peter Navarre (1788-1874) in esteem as a symbol of the city’s beginnings and as a hero of the War of 1812. Members of the large Navarre family also were among the original settlers of Monroe and Detroit, Michigan. This collection is significant as documentary evidence of one of the best-known families in southeast Michigan and northwest Ohio.

Original copies of warranty deeds comprise a large part of the collection. Although the chain is broken in some cases, the deeds (and mortgages) document the transfer of title between owners. The deeds concern three nearby tracts, all in the northwest corner of what is now the City of Oregon. The first is a sixty acre parcel, originally part of the Navarre Tract, sold by Alexis (Alexander) Navarre, brother of Peter, to his brother James in 1840. The second is a twenty-eight acre parcel, originally part of a tract granted to an Ottawa woman, Pe-tau. This parcel has remained in the hands of descendants of Mary Elizabeth (Navarre) Williams, daughter of Alexis Navarre, ever since. The third tract is a five acre parcel owned by Peter Momany, great-grandfather of the collection’s donor.

Although the deeds themselves are duplicated in the records of the Lucas County Recorder, other documents sometimes accompanying the deeds -- loans and receipts -- are not. These additional documents are valuable as evidence for methods of selling land in 19th century Lucas County.

Other documents are legal and financial records, including 19th century tax receipts. One document, the marriage certificate of James (Jacques) Navarre to Catherine Couture, deserves special notice. Signed by Father Gabriel Richard, early religious and intellectual leader of territorial Detroit, it was probably printed on Richard’s press, the second one in the frontier city.

Another significant part of the collection is the photographs. Many of these were taken by Cleo Keller, a friend and neighbor of the Navarre and Williams families; they provide good informal views of late 19th century life. There are also tintypes and ambrotypes dating from the Civil War.

Also of interest are a few Civil War letters that describe events in camp, mention the capture of a Colonel, and discuss the practice of paying for a substitute to serve in the army.
Folder List

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<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
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<td>Marriage and Religious Records</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Marriage Certificate: Jacques Navarre-Catherine Couture, 20 Feb. 1815</td>
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<td>Marriage Announcement: Guy K. Houk-Gabrielle Navarre, 30 Jun. 1897</td>
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<td>Confirmation Certificate: Elmer Lang, 23 Apr. 1916 (with photographs of Lang and Pastor Schuh)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>OVERSIZE #1</td>
<td>Marriage License: Exivia Navarre-Anna McCarty, 22 Jan. 1871</td>
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<td>OVERSIZE #1</td>
<td>Baptismal Certificate: Elmer Lang, 30 Mar. 1902</td>
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<td>Estate Records</td>
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<td>Quitclaim: James Navarre, 1858</td>
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<td>Will: Catherine Navarre, 1858</td>
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<td>Land Records</td>
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<td>1830s</td>
<td>Pe-tau (Indian woman) to Marquis Baldwin,</td>
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<td>OVERSIZE*</td>
<td>Stephen G. Austin et al. to James Navarre, 7 Nov. 1837</td>
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<td>1840s</td>
<td>Alexander and Mary Ann Navarre to James Navarre, 27 Jul. 1840</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Bill of Sale) Alexander Navarre to James Navarre, 27 Jul. 1840</td>
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<td>(Property) Francis Navarre to Exivier Navarre, 9 Sep. 1841</td>
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<td>OVERSIZE*</td>
<td>Lucas County to Daniel F. Cook, 11 Jan. 1848</td>
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<td>OVERSIZE*</td>
<td>Marquis Baldwin and wife to John Fitch, 18 Oct. 1844</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>1850s</td>
<td>(Lease) James Myers to Antoine Berdioux, 18 Mar. 1853</td>
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<td>John Fitch to Warren Salsbury, 13 Jul. 1853</td>
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<td>Alexander Navarre to James Navarre, 17 Jun. 1854</td>
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<td>Sheriff, Lucas County, to Alexander J. Navarre, 25 Mar. 1859</td>
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<td>Stephen and Harriett Arquett to Peter Momany, 23 Apr. 1859</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# Navarre-Williams Family Papers, 1815-1980s

## 6 1860s
- Alexander J. Navarre to Exivia Navarre, 24 Aug. 1860
- Jonathan Wynn et al. to Cadwalader M. Williams, 4 Sep. 1865

## 7 1870s/80s
- Exivia D. and Anna Williams to Cadwalader M. Williams, 23 Aug 1871
- (Quitclaim) C. M. and Elizabeth Williams to Exivia D. Navarre, 28 Mar. 1874
- (Mortgage) Cadwalader M. and Elizabeth Williams to James Dupont, 3 Sep. 1880

## 8 1900s
- (Mortgage) Peter Momany to Peter B. Bogart, 8 Oct. 1900
- Cadwalader M. and Elizabeth Williams to Thaddeus Williams, 2 Jan. 1912 (with copy)
- (Life lease) Thaddeus and Rena Williams to Cadwalader M. and Elizabeth Williams, 2 Jan. 1912
- (Receipt) Nora Smith to Thaddeus Williams, 23 Jan. 1912
- (Receipt) Alta Liedel to Thaddeus Williams, 23 Jan. 1912
- (Real estate option) Cad M. and Elizabeth Williams to Thaddeus Williams, 4 Mar. 1919
- (Real estate option) Thaddeus and Rena Williams to Walker Montgomery, 4 Mar. 1919

## 9 1930s/40s
- Thaddeus Williams to Rena A. Williams, 12 May 1930
- C. Archie Williams to Helen W. Lang, 16 Aug. 1948

## 10 Other Legal Records
- Summons, to Alexander Navarre et al., Lucas County District Court, 10 Apr. 1857
- District Court, 10 Apr. 1858
- District Court, 10 Apr. 1859
- District Court, 10 Apr. 1860
- District Court, 10 Apr. 1861
- District Court, 10 Apr. 1862
- District Court, 10 Apr. 1863

## Financial Records
- Bills and receipts, 1832-1893
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Tax receipts
12 James Navarre, 1838-1855
13 Alexander Navarre, 1842-1868
14 Alexander J., Exivia, and David Navarre, 1856-1916
15 Miscellaneous, 1851-1857

Civil War/Grand Army of the Republic
16 Certificate of Muster (1981) and GAR memorabilia

OVERSIZE #1

Discharge, Cawallader (sic) M. Williams, 21 Jul 1865
17 Letters, 1856-1898

18 School related items

19 Biographies
   “Autobiography (sic) Cadwell A. Williams”
   Drafts of autobiography, Helen W. Lang

20 Research and Speech Notes

21 Newspaper clippings

22 Miscellaneous
   Inventory of “Relics”
   Postcards
   Peter Navarre’s portrait
   Centennial Exhibition, Philadelphia, 1876
   Boody house menu, Washington’s Birthday, 1912
   Calling cards
   Robert C. Navarre, U.S. Lighthouse Keeper
   Mrs. C. M. Houk
   Programs (2) for dedication of the Navarre Monument, 4 July 1914
   Essay: “A Body That Cannot Contain Itself”
   Obituary (handwritten speech) for Mrs. Elizabeth Kenan Houk, 1903

Photographs
23 C. Archie Williams and Helen Williams Lang
24 Elmer Lang
25 Individuals and Small Groups
   (1 of 2)
   (2 of 2)
26 Groups
27 Places
Navarre-Williams Family
Papers, 1815-1980s

30 Tintypes
35mm Slides (copies of Cleo Keller photographs)
see Oversize listing in Appendix

Photograph Albums and Scrapbooks
31 Photograph Album/Music Box, ca. 1860s/70s
32 Scrapbook: “The Girl Graduate,” Helen Williams, 1920-23
33 Scrapbook: Greeting Cards and Postcards, ca.1910s/20s
34 Scrapbook: Picture Cards, 1884-early 1900s
see Oversize listing in Appendix

APPENDIX: OVERSIZE ITEMS

OVERSIZE#1

Marriage and Religious Records
Marriage License: Exivia Navarre-Anna McCarty, 22 Jan. 1871
Baptismal Certificate: Elmer Lang, 30 Mar. 1902

Civil War
Discharge, Cawallader (sic) M. Williams, 21 Jul 1865

Photographs
Boody House Barber Shop, ca. 1910s
Boody House Office, ca. 1910s
Dinner Party [ca. 1920s?]  
Military group
Homer Ramey 
woman, 1934
house

OVERSIZE#2

Photographs
taken by Cleo Keller
Individuals (one section)
Groups (three sections)
Buildings
Places
Events
Military
numbered (see 35mm slides; folder 29)

Tintypes
Miscellaneous
Navarre-Williams Family
Papers, 1815-1980s

OVERSIZE#3
Photograph Album, 1860s/70s

OVERSIZE #4
Photographs: Individuals (4 ea)

OVERSIZE #4
Photograph Album, 1860s/70s