

Inventory of the

Frances Pesut Family
DeKalb, Illinois

Collection

In the

Regional History Center

RC 334

INTRODUCTION

The Frances Pesut Family collection was donated by Anna Marie Coveny to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on October 28, 2013. Additional items were also donated on November 18, 2013.

Property rights in the collection are held by the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 3.25
Number of containers: 8 + 1 Oversize
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 334

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Frances Pesut Family Collection consists of photographs, legal documents, funeral and financial registers, membership records, newspaper articles, and birth and death records, and handmade crafts and artifacts. The collection covers the span of 1908 to 2013. Arrangement is chronological. The beginning of the collection starts with the documentation of the Pesut family as a whole, and then is separated by individual family member in birth order: Matt and Mary Pesut, Anna Pesut-Nisas, John F. Pesut, Catherine Pesut, Amanda "Manda" Pesut, Frances Pesut, Joseph L. Pesut, and George S. Pesut and wife Esther. The last few folders of the collection contains information about extended family members.

Much of the collection contains information on birth and death of each family member. There are some photographs and other information, such as association memberships and legal documents through out the collection. The collection was originally a part of an exhibit to honor immigrants.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Matt and Mary Pesut were both Croatian immigrants who married in DeKalb in 1908. They had seven children and settled in the area known as Finn Town, east side of DeKalb. Matt Pesut was born in 1884 in Austria-Hungary and his wife Mary was born in Austria-Hungary in 1899. Both Matt and Mary were a part of St. Mary's Church in DeKalb. Matt Pesut was a member of the Croatian Fraternal Union as well. Mary Pesut passed on October 9, 1973 and Matt Pesut passed on December 13, 1975. Matt and Mary had seven children, three sons and four daughters, who were all born in DeKalb.

Their oldest son, John F. Pesut was born in 1908. John worked for United States Steel and was a member of St. Mary's Church, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, and the Croatian Fraternal Union. John passed on January 6, 1975.

The oldest daughter, Anna, was born in 1913. She married Matt Nisas in 1935 and later had a son named Wallace. They moved to Iowa in 1977. Anna was a member of St. Mary's Church in DeKalb and a member of the Croatian Fraternal Union. Anna passed December 27, 2001.

Catherine Pesut was the second daughter born into the Pesut family in 1915. Catherine worked for Cyclone Fence Co. of DeKalb, IL. Catherine passed on December 3, 1982.

Amanda "Manda" Pesut was the third daughter for Matt and Mary Pesut. She was born in 1916. Manda was employed for 15 years at Cyclone Fence Co. in DeKalb and 33 years at National Printing Press Co. in North Chicago. Manda was a member of St. Mary's Church, Catholic Daughters of America, Altar and Rosary Society, Catholic Fraternal Union, DeKalb County Hospice, and a lifetime member of Friends of Barb City Manor. Manda passed June 8, 1994.

Frances "Peppy" Pesut was the youngest daughter born in 1917. Frances had worked for Cyclone Fence Company, General Electric, and at Wurlitzer Piano Factory. Frances was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church, Catholic Daughters of America No. 996, Altar and Rosary Society, Croatian Fraternal Union of America, and Friends of Barb City Manor. Frances passed on January 25, 2013.

Matt and Mary's second son was Joseph L. Pesut. He was born in 1910 and passed away on February 26, 1967. Sometime during his life Joseph changed the last name from Pesut to Pesuit to reflect its previous spelling. He married Frieda. He and Frieda had a daughter, Barbara, who was born in 1939 and who preceded the couple in death in 1960. They also had another daughter Jo Ann.

George Pesut was the youngest of the seven Pesut siblings and was born in 1928. George was a medic and tank driver in the armed forces during the Korean War. He was employed by DeKalb area construction companies after his service. George was a member of St. Mary's Church, Croatian Fraternal Union of America, and the Croatian Catholic Union. George Pesut married Esther Faye Mason in Sycamore on July 4, 1958. George passed on February 13, 1992. His wife Esther passed May 24, 1992.

The collection also contains records for extended family such as Father J. Pesut who was a cousin to the family.

The Pesut family immigration experience was highlighted in an exhibit to honor DeKalb's immigrants held at the DeKalb Area Women's Center and put together by Anna Marie Convey.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Croatian Americans
Croatian Fraternal Union
Cyclone Fence Co.
DeKalb Country (Ill.) – History

General Electric Company
Pesut Family
St. Mary's Parish

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	Pesut Family Records 1935, 1974-1976, 1982
	2	Pesut Photos 1937-1938, n.d.
	3	Pesut Family Marriages and Deaths 1975-1976, 1998, 2000-2012
	4	Croatian Cuisine Cook Book, n.d.
	5	Matt and Mary Pesut with Family, Photos, n.d.
	6	Matt and Mary Pesut: Legal Documents, 1908, 1917, 1920 1939, 1941-1948
	7	Mary Pesut Death and Funeral 1973
	8	Mary Pesut Funeral Book, 1973
	9	Matt Pesut Death and Funeral 1975
2	1	Matt Pesut Funeral Book, 1975
	2	Anna Pesut-Nisas and Nisas Family 1941-1945, 1963-1964, 1983, 2001
	3	John F. Pesut Pins, n.d.
	4	John Pesut Birth and Baptism, 1908
	5	John Pesut: Banking Records, 1946-1975
	6	John Pesut Death, 1975
3	1	John Pesut Funeral Book, 1976
	1	Catherine Pesut Photographs, n.d.
	2	Catherine Pesut Birth Records, 1915
	3	Catherine Pesut Association Papers, 1949
	4	Catherine Pesut Banking Registers, 1966-1975
	5	Catherine Pesut Death Records, 1982
6	Catherine Pesut Funeral Book, 1982	
4	1	Amanda Pesut Photographs, 1988, n.d.
	2	Amanda Pesut and DeKalb County, 1994
	3	Amanda Pesut Death and Funeral Records, 1994
	4	Amanda Pesut Funeral Book, 1994
	5	Frances Pesut Birth and Baptism Records, 1917-1918
	6	Frances Pesut Memberships and Articles, 1988, 1994, 2004, 2010
	7	Frances Pesut Photographs, 1984, 2013
	8	Frances Pesut Funeral Book, 2013
	9	Joseph L. Pesuit and Family, 1930s-1998
5	1	George and Esther Pesut Photographs, 1977, 1992, n.d.
	2	George and Esther Pesut Death Records, 1992

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
5	3	Esther Pesut Funeral Book, 1992
	4	Extended Family Photographs, 1954-2010
	5	Father Louis J. Pesut Death, 1999
Artifact Box 6		Matt and Mary Pesut: Cross, 3 hand stitched crafts
Artifact Box 7		Frances Pesut: Rosary, 2 hand made crafts
Artifact Box 8		France Pesut: GE Award Plaque
OV Drawer 38	6	School certificates, Communion papers (11)