

Inventory of the

Nisbet Homestead Farm

Paw Paw Township
DeKalb County, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 216

INTRODUCTION

Helen Nisbet-Roberts donated the Nisbet Homestead Farm Records to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on October 19, 1993. Additional records were added at a later date.

Property rights in the collection belong to 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: 2.0
Number of container: 3 + Oversized
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 216

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Nisbet Homestead Farm records document the establishment of the family homestead by Matthew Nisbet using property and mortgage deeds, and traces the homestead's development into a recreational park and campground by Helen Nisbet-Roberts beginning in 1976. The collection contains two series. Series I, The Old Stone House, is arranged chronologically, and contains land purchase deeds, National Heritage Site information, and documents pertaining to the conversion of the homestead's land into a recreational area. Series II, the Nisbet Family, is arranged according to the Nisbet Family Tree, located in the oversized collection (RC 200). This series contains photographs, family genealogy, family research, receipts and bills, and correspondence between family members spanning from 1841-1998.

For further information regarding family farms in DeKalb County the researcher should consult the Guy Lanan Farm Records (RC 111) and the Harry A. Joslyn Records (RC 183). For further information regarding other family farms in the region the researcher should consult the Regional Collections Guide.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Matthew Nisbet, born in Scotland in 1818, came to DeKalb County from Canada in 1841. He settled in Paw Paw Township in DeKalb County where he proceeded to build a two story log cabin to live in while he built the historic stone house. The house, built of ten by four feet blocks of stone hauled by ox cart from Ottawa, took 15 years to build. The home was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on May 31, 1984. The Nisbet Homestead land was later developed into a recreational park and campground in 1976 by Helen Nisbet-Roberts which remained with the family until 1994 when the property was sold to Russell Marcum.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

DeKalb County (Ill.)
Family Farms
Land grants
Nisbet Homestead Farm

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Series I. Old Stone House Documents		
1	1	Land Purchase Information and Abstracts, n.d.
	2	Land Patents, 1837, 1850
	3	Deeds, 1844-1933
	4	Old Stone House Historical Information, n.d.
	5	Petition for Nisbet Farm to become a Recreational Area, n.d.
	6	News Articles on Old Stone House, (1976-1984)
	7	Postcard of Old Stone House, 1977
	8	Old Stone House Park, Inc. Shareholder and Directors Board Meeting Minutes, 1977-1993
	9	Old Stone House Park National Register of Historic Places Information and Documents, 1982-2008
	10	Nisbet Homestead DeKalb Tax Letters, 1987-1993
	11	Nisbet Homestead Resale Contact 1987-1998
	12	Illinois Centennial Farm Heritage Association Information, n.d.
	13	Correspondences with Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, December 12, 1989
	14	Old Stone House Campground Sale Contract, 1990
	15	Stone House Sale Contract, Correspondences, and Information on Sale, 1994
	16	Legal Documents for Dissolution of Homestead Farm, Inc. and Homestead Farm, Inc. Tax Forms, November 17, 1994, February 12, 1995
	17	Old Stone House Addresses and Research, 1994
	18	DeKalb County Zoning Information on Old Stone House, 2007-2009
	19	Paw Paw Township History and DeKalb County, n.d.
	20	Paw Paw Township Maps (1868-1920)
	21	Paw Paw Township Census, 1880
Series II. Nisbet Family		
2	1	Crest, n.d.
	2	Crest Research, n.d
	3	Genealogy Records, n.d
	4	History, 2008
	5	History (recorded on cassette tape), 2014
	6	Research Correspondences, 1995-1996
	7	Research, General Family, n.d.
	8	Research, Glasglow, Scotland, n.d.
	9	Seal, n.d.
	10	Stories, n.d

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
		Matthew Nisbet
2	11	Matthew Nisbet History Information, n.d.
	12	Isabella Drew Information [mother of Matthew Nisbet], n.d.
	13	Correspondences between Matthew Nisbet, William Nisbet Jr., and William Barton, 1844
	14	Supreme Court Case "Ross v. Matthew Nisbet", 1845
	15	Correspondences between Matthew Nisbet and William Boston, 1868-1880
	16	Last Will and Testaments of Matthew Nisbet and Frank Nisbet, 1875 and 1972
		William Nisbet
	17	Deeds, Photographs, and Research, (1864-1940)
	18	Correspondences to William Nisbet Jr., (1884-1930)
	19	Correspondences from Elizabeth Nisbet Harper, 1925
	20	Receipts and Bills (1877-1918)
	21	Notebook, n.d.
	22	Nisbet Family Letters Typed Transcripts, n.d.
3	1	Peter Nisbet Information, n.d.
	2	Correspondences to Peter Nisbet, 1870-1880
	3	Isabella Hossack Nisbet Information and Photograph [wife of William Nisbet Jr.], n.d.
	4	Agnes Nisbet Bevier Information, 1904-1966
	5	Lawrence Drew Information [first cousin of Matthew Nisbet], n.d.
	6	Lon Nisbet Information and Deed, December 6, 1919
	7	Glenn Nisbet Whitney and Jean Nisbet Dunlap Information, n.d.
	8	James and Elizabeth Harper Genealogy, n.d.
	9	Harper Family Information, n.d.
	10	James and Margaret Wallace information and registers, 1824-1899
	11	Correspondences to William Boston [cousin of the Wallace family], (1866-1870)
	12	General Family Correspondences, (1878-1925)
	13	Correspondences with Hossack Archibald, (1868-1886)
	14	Jeanne Nisbet Wedding Announcement, News Articles, and Photograph, n.d.
	15	Archie and Laurena Nisbet Obituaries, n.d.
	16	Ruth Nisbet Caldwell Funeral Information and Condolence Letters, 1993
	17	Helen Nisbet Personal Correspondences, n.d.

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
3	18	Correspondences from Helen Nisbet to Margaret, (1994-1998)
	19	Who's Who in the Midwest, 17 th Edition Certificate for Helen M. Nisbet Farley, 1980-1981
	20-21	Nisbet Family Photographs (18??-1960)
	22	"The Stairs Covenanters", n.d.
Oversize Drawer 28	9	Nisbet Family Tree Charts, n.d.
	10	Mortgage Document for Elizabeth Cooper, March 11, 1868 Administrators Deed for Lawrence Nisbet, February 18, 1892
	11	DeKalb County land Use Plan, 1981
	12	Paw Paw Township Land Surveys, 1988
	13	Certificate of Survey, 1987
	14	Land Survey of Old Stone House, 1988
	15	Nisbet Land Surveys, 1975