

# Carter/Cash Family Collection

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c.1940-2009



## Title Statement

Carter/Cash Family Collection Carter/Cash Family Collection, c.1940-2009 Ms.2009.090

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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

Ms.2009.090

### Unit Date

c.1940-2009

### Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

### Abstract

The Carter/Cash Family Collection contains memoirs, biographies, photographs, funeral programs, newspaper and magazine articles, and memorabilia relating to the Carter family and Johnny Cash.

### Extent

1.4 Cubic Feet 1 box

### Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

## Administrative Information

### Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

### **Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use**

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### **Source of Acquisition**

The initial materials for the Carter/Cash Family Collection were purchased by Special Collections in June 2009. Additional materials were purchased by Special Collections in two further accruals during July and August 2009.

### **Processing Information**

The processing, arrangement, and description of the initial Carter/Cash Family Collection materials commenced and was completed in June 2009. The processing, arrangement, and description of accruals was completed in August 2009.

### **Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Carter/Cash Family Collection, Ms2009-090, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

## **Biographical Note**

In the early 1900s, "hillbilly" music was being recorded in studios in northern states. The distance from the mountains of Tennessee and Virginia made it difficult for musicians to record their music. Ralph Peer—a producer for Victor Talking Machine Company in Bristol, Tennessee—decided to take advantage of this booming genre of music by establishing a recording studio on the second floor of the Taylor-Christian Hat Company on State Street in Bristol. In 1927, Peer recorded several songs with musicians that, to this day, are still regarded as the mothers and fathers of country music. Ralph Peer is also credited with discovering Jimmie Rodgers—one of country music's legends—at the Bristol Sessions.

In response to Peer's call for musicians, Alvin Pleasant "A.P." Delaney Carter, his wife, Sara Dougherty Carter, and his sister-in-law, Maybelle Kilgore Addington Carter traveled to Bristol to record their music. The Carter Family recorded six songs and soon became known as the "first family" of country music. The Carter Family continued to grow in size and musical talent. Maybelle Carter and her husband Ezra (A.P.'s brother) were the parents of June (1929-2003), Helen (1927-1998), and Anita (1933-1999), who later performed as the Carter Sisters. Although Johnny Cash (1932-2003) was, arguably, one of the most influential country music artists of all time, his music broke the boundaries of traditional country music, spilling over into other genres including blues, gospel, and rock and roll. Since his marriage to June Carter in 1968, he has been considered a member of the Carter family musicians.

For additional information on the Carter and Cash families, see the following:

Birthplace of Country Music website

Streissguth, Micheal Johnny Cash: The Biography **Newman Library 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor ML 420 .C265 S66 2006**

Zwonitzer, Mark Will You Miss Me When I'm Gone?: The Carter Family and Their Legacy in American Music. **Newman Library 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor ML 421 .C33 Z86 2002**

## **Scope and Content**

The Carter/Cash Family Collection contains memoirs written by Janette Carter and Gladys Millard (daughters of A.P. and Sara), biographies, discographies, sheet music, and a compact disc recording titled *The Original Carter Family in Texas* (1999). In addition to this material, the collection includes programs from the Carter Family Memorial Festival and Craft Show (2000, 2002-2004, and 2008), funeral services for second generation Carter musicians and Johnny Cash, and special events at the Carter Family Fold. The Carter/Cash Family Collection also contains photographs, newspaper and magazine articles, and memorabilia, such as Maybelle's hunting and fishing license (1975) and a Carter Fold volunteer badge.

## **Separated Materials**

The following books have been separated to the Rare Book Collection:

Cash, June Carter *Among My Klediments*

Wolfe, Charles K. *June Carter Cash Johnny Cash A. P. Carter Sara Carter Maybelle Carter Jimmie Rodgers The Carter Family: In the Shadow of Clinch Mountain*

Zwonitzer, Mark Charles Hirshberg *Will You Miss Me When I'm Gone?: The Carter Family and Their Legacy in American Music.*

## Keywords

Articles

Biographies (literary works)

Country musicians

Country musicians -- United States

Country musicians -- United States -- Biography

Discographies

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South

Programs (documents)

Women -- History

Carter, A. P. (Alvin Pleasant), 1891-1960

Carter Family (Musical group)

Carter, Joe, 1927-2005

Carter, Janette

Carter, Helen, 1927-1998

Carter, Anita

Cash, June Carter, 1929-2003

Cash, Johnny

Carter, Sara, 1898-1979

Carter, Maybelle, 1909-1978

Carter Sisters

## Rights Statement for Archival Description

The guide to the Carter/Cash Family Collection by Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, is licensed under a CC0 (<https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/public-domain/cc0/>).

## Arrangement

The collection is arranged in three series: Series I: Memoirs and Biographies, Series II: Memorabilia, and Series III: Newspaper and Magazine Articles.

Series I: Memoirs and Biographies, 1980-2005, n.d. This series includes two memoirs written by Janette Carter (1983, 2005). The earliest of these two memoirs is autographed by Janette and Joe Carter, and the more recent memoir is autographed by Janette Carter, Flo (A.P. and Sara's first grandchild, the daughter of Gladys) and Johnny Wolfe (Flo's husband), and Dale (Janette's son) and Teresa Jett (Dale's wife). This series also contains a memoir written about A.P. Carter by Gladys Millard (n.d.), as well as a collection of Carter Family sheet music with a biography written by Johnny Cash (1980). This series is arranged chronologically.

Series II: Memorabilia, 1941-2008, n.d. This series is comprised primarily of items relating to the Carter family's music, programs of events involving the family, and photographs. The series has been divided into the following five subseries:

Subseries A: Discographies, n.d. This subseries includes two discographies of the Carter Sisters and Mother Maybelle, one of which includes performances with Chet Atkins. It is likely that these discographies were meant to accompany audio recordings of the listed songs. This subseries is arranged by material type.

Subseries B: Music, 1944-1999, n.d. This subseries includes two books of sheet music (1944, n.d.) and a compact disc recording titled *The Original Carter Family in Texas* (1999). This subseries is arranged by material type.

Subseries C: Programs, 2000-2008, n.d. This subseries includes programs from the 26<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Carter Family Memorial Festival and Craft Show (2000, 2002-2004, 2008), as well as the Carter

Fold performance schedule for May and June of 2003. This sub-series also contains programs from the dedication ceremony for the A.P. Carter Cabin (2004) and the Janette Carter Memorial Gospel Concert (2008). In addition to event programs, this Sub-series also includes funeral programs for June Carter Cash (2003), Johnny Cash (2003), Joe D. Carter (2005), and Janette Carter (2006). This subseries is arranged chronologically within each event type.

Subseries D: Photographs, 2002, n.d. This subseries contains an undated photograph of the original Carter Family, a small portrait of Maybelle (n.d.), and two photographs taken at the Carter Fold, including one of Johnny Cash and one of June Carter Cash (2002). This subseries is arranged chronologically, with the undated material first.

Subseries E: Miscellaneous, c.1940-2004, n.d. This subseries includes Sara Carter's Musicians' Protective Association Card (c.1940), Maybelle Carter's hunting and fishing license (1975), and a scrapbook page dated May 29, 2004, that features a magazine clipping of the original Carter Family that is signed by Carlene Carter (June's daughter), Connie Smith, and John Carter Cash (Johnny and June's son). In addition, this sub-series also includes A.P.'s "Bible Questions and Answers" booklet (n.d.), Maybelle's Holiday Inn "Inner Circle" card (n.d.), a Carter Fold volunteer badge (n.d.), and a collectible seat cushion from the Carter Fold (n.d.). This subseries is arranged by material type.

Series III. Newspaper and Magazine Articles, 1991-2009. This series includes eight newspaper articles from the Kingsport, Tennessee, *Times News*, as well as three *GoTricities* special publications from the *Times News*. The series also includes two newspaper articles from the *Bristol Herald Courier* and one special supplemental publication from the Scott County, Virginia, *Star*. Although most of these articles discuss the public response to the death of Joe D. Carter, Janette Carter, June Carter Cash, and Johnny Cash, some discuss the impact of the Carter Family in their respective communities, as well as the country music genre. This series also contains an issue of *Life* that celebrates the life of A.P. Carter and an issue of *People* that pays tribute to Johnny Cash. This series is arranged chronologically.

## Description of Subordinate Components

### Series I: Memoirs and Biographies

**Unit Date** 1980-2005, n.d.

#### **The Original Carter Family. New York: Peer International Corporation**

**Unit Date** 1980

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

#### **Carter, Janette. Living with Memories. Hiltons, VA: Carter Family Memorial Music Center**

**Unit Date** 1983

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

#### **Carter, Janette. My Clinch Mountain Home. Hiltons, VA: Carter Family Memorial Music Center**

**Unit Date** 2005

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

#### **Millard, Gladys. "I Remember Daddy." Sunny Side Sentinel. Carter Family Fan Club**

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

### Series II: Memorabilia

**Unit Date** 1941-2008, n.d.

**Subseries A: Discographies**

**Unit Date** n.d.

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**"The Carter Sisters and Mother Maybelle: Their Complete Recordings"**

**"The Carter Sisters and Mother Maybelle with Chet Atkins: Ozark Radio"**

**Subseries B: Music**

**Unit Date** 1944-1999, n.d.

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

**The Carter Family Album of Smokey Mountain Ballads. New York: Southern Music Company, Inc.**

**Unit Date** 1944

**McMurray, Vance. Original Hill and Country Songs. Gate City, VA: Vance McMurray**

**Unit Date** n.d.

**The Original Carter Family in Texas. Brighton, MI: Old Homestead Records**

**Unit Date** 1999

**Subseries C: Programs**

**Unit Date** 2000-2008, n.d.

**Annual Carter Family Memorial Festival and Craft Show**

**Unit Date** 2000, 2002-2004, 2008

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 5 (folder)

**Carter Fold Performance Schedule**

**Unit Date** 2003

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 5 (folder)

**Funeral programs for June Carter Cash, Johnny Cash, Joe D. Carter, and Janette Carter**

**Unit Date** 2003, 2005-2006

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 6 (folder)

**Dedication of A.P. Carter Cabin**

**Unit Date** 2004

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 7 (folder)

**Memorial Service Program, Janette Carter**

**Unit Date** c.2006

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 7 (folder)

**Janette Carter Memorial Gospel Concert**

**Unit Date** 2008

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 7 (folder)

**Subseries D: Photographs**

**Unit Date** 2002, n.d.

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 8 (folder)

**Johnny Cash at Carter Fold**

**Unit Date** 2002

**June Carter Cash at Carter Fold**

**Unit Date** 2002

**The Original Carter Family**

**Maybelle Carter**

**Subseries E: Miscellaneous**

**Unit Date** c.1940-2009, n.d.

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 9 (folder)

**Sara Carter's Musicians' Protective Association Card**

**Unit Date** c.1940

**Maybelle Carter's Hunting and Fishing License**

**Unit Date** 1975

**Maybelle Carter's Holiday Inn "Inner Circle" Card**

**A.P. Carter's "Bible Questions and Answers" Booklet**

**Collectible seat cushion**

**Carter Fold Volunteer Badge**

**Scrapbook page**

**Unit Date** 2004

**Series III: Newspaper and Magazine Articles**

**Unit Date** 1991-2009

**Life magazine article about A.P. Carter**

**Unit Date** December 1991

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 10 (folder)

**Bristol Herald Courier, Special Section**

**Unit Date** July 24, 2002

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 11 (folder)

**GoTricities special publication, Kingsport, Tennessee, Times News**

**Unit Date** July 26-August 1, 2002

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 11 (folder)

**Bristol Herald Courier**

**Unit Date** May 16, 2003

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 11 (folder)

**Kingsport, Tennessee, Times News articles**

**Unit Date** May-September 2003

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 12 (folder)

**People magazine article**

**Unit Date** September 29, 2003

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 12 (folder)

**Supplemental publication for Scott County, Virginia, Star**

**Unit Date** August 4, 2004

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 13 (folder)

**Kingsport, Tennessee, Times News articles and GoTricities special publications**

**Unit Date** 2004-2009

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 13 (folder)