

A Guide to the Jessie Stoutamyer Diary, 1905, 1911 SC 0059

Jessie Stoutamyer diary

1905



Title Statement

A Guide to the Jessie Stoutamyer Diary, 1905, 1911 SC 0059

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 0059

Unit ID

/repositories/4/resources/378

Unit Date

1905

Unit Date

1911

Language

English

Abstract

The Jessie Stoutamyer Diary, 1905, 1911, consists of one bound (hand-stitched) diary kept by 18-year-old Augusta County native, Jessie Jackson Stoutamyer. The diary spans January 1 through August 30, 1911, with a final entry chronicling her brother George's death on October 11, 1911. Stoutamyer's entries include her daily activities and family news. Also included is a separate sheet on which Stoutamyer transcribed "The Yellow Rose of Texas."

Creator

Stoutamyer, Jessie Jackson, 1892-1986

Extent

0.06 cubic feet 1 letter folder

Repository

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

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Acquisition Information

Donated by Don L. Brown of Staunton, Virginia in August 2016.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], [box #, folder #], Jessie Stoutamyer Diary, 1905, 1911, SC 0059, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

Bio/Historical Note

Jessie Jackson Stoutamyer was born November 12, 1892 in Lone Fountain, Virginia, a small community in Augusta County. She was one of eight children – George Eakle (1874-1911), J. S. (1878- before 1900), William E. (1881-1923), Sue Ella (1885-1976), Guy C. (1887-1963), Daisy (1890-1960), and Roy Samuel (1897-1969) – born to Andrew J. (1847-1925) and Sarah "Lula" Carlton Stoutamyer (1854-1929). Stoutamyer was unmarried and according to the 1940 census was living with her brother Roy, also unmarried. She passed away March 2, 1986 and is buried at Green Hill Cemetery in Churchville, Virginia.

Scope and Content

The Jessie Stoutamyer Diary, 1905, 1911, consists of one bound, and primitively hand-stitched, diary kept by 18-year-old Augusta County native, Jessie Jackson Stoutamyer. The pages are irregular and appear to be used paper bags. The presence of an address stamp on a few pages indicates that at least some of the bags originated from a business at 20 West Main St. in Staunton. The diary spans January 1 through August 30, 1911, with a final entry mentioning her brother George's death on October 11, 1911. Stoutamyer's entries chronicle her daily activities and family news with frequent mentions of her siblings. She describes doing chores on the family farm (sawing wood, planting garden, and milking cows), keeping house (quilting, washing, cooking), and the comings and goings of her siblings and neighbors. Stoutamyer's final entry describes the passing of her eldest brother: "George died October 11th 1911 and was buried the 12 on my dead sisters birthday. I would like to be a million miles away from here." The sister referenced in this entry is likely "J. S.," the two-year-old daughter of Andrew and Lula Stoutamyer who is listed on the 1880 census. She is not listed on any further censuses.

Also included is a separate sheet on which Stoutamyer transcribed "The Yellow Rose of Texas." An inscription is located on page two of the transcript. It reads: "Writon [sic] by Jessie Stoutamyer, Lone Fountain, Va., June the 12, 1905." While Stoutamyer was clearly literate, her frequent misspelling of simple words (stoar instead of store) and incorrect use of homophonous words (male instead of mail) indicate limited schooling.

Keywords

Farm life -- Virginia -- Augusta County
Rural families -- Virginia -- Augusta County
Augusta County (Va.) -- History
Augusta County (Va.) -- Social life and customs
Virginia -- History, Local
Diaries
Songs (musical compositions)

Bibliography

"Find A Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVKH-YYGR> : 13 December 2015), George Eakle Stoutamyer, 1911; Burial, Churchville, Augusta, Virginia, United States of America, Green Hill Cemetery; citing record ID 35535967, Find a Grave, <http://www.findagrave.com>. "Find A Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVLL-C1K4> : 13 December 2015), Jessie Jackson Stoutamyer, 1986; Burial, Churchville, Augusta, Virginia, United States of America, Green Hill Cemetery; citing record ID 98047628, Find a Grave, <http://www.findagrave.com>. "United States Census, 1940," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VRYH-B8Q> : accessed 17 February 2017), Jessie J Stoutamyer in household of Roy S Stoutamyer, Pastures Magisterial District, Augusta, Virginia, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 8-16, sheet 22A, line 31, family 298, Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940, NARA digital publication T627. Records of the Bureau of the Census, 1790 - 2007, RG 29. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2012, roll 4247.

Provenance

The donor acquired the diary at an estate sale in Churchville, Virginia in the early 1990s. According to the donor, the last resident of that estate was Vivian Stoutamyer.

Arrangement

The diary and "The Yellow Rose of Texas" transcript are housed in one letter folder.

Description of Subordinate Components

Jessie Stoutamyer diary

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2337

Unit Date 1905

Unit Date 1911

Mixed Materials [1000886509] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)