Manuscript Collection Inventory
Illinois History and Lincoln Collections
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Note: Unless otherwise specified, documents and other materials listed on the following pages are available for research at the Illinois Historical and Lincoln Collections, located in the Main Library of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Additional background information about the manuscript collection inventoried is recorded in the Manuscript Collections Database (http://www.library.illinois.edu/ihx/archon/index.php) under the collection title; search by the name listed at the top of the inventory to locate the corresponding collection record in the database.
Riehl-Thompson Family. Papers, 1853-2010.

Table of Contents [Page numbers follow each heading]

Box 1

1. Riehl Family

Riehl Family History, 4
Emil A. “E. A.” Riehl, 4
   Biographical Material
   Correspondence
   Caroline “Lena” Riehl
Amelia “Mim” Riehl, 4
   Correspondence
Edwin H. Riehl, 5
   Biographical Material
Emma Riehl Gibbens, 5
   Correspondence
   George W. Gibbens
Frank C. Riehl, 5
   Biographical Material
   Correspondence
   Publications
   Ephemera
   Jessie Riehl
   Emmett Adolph Riehl
   Stella Riehl
   Frank C. Riehl Family
Helen “Nell” Riehl McLennan, 7
   Biographical Material
   Correspondence
   Lectures
Julia “Judie” Riehl, 7
   Correspondence
Walter Riehl, 7
   Correspondence and Writings
   Jack London Riehl
Riehl Family, 8
   Photographs
   Ephemera


About E. A. Riehl Farm, 8
Administrative Records, 8
Correspondence, 9
Finances and Orders, 11
Honors and Awards, 12
Notes on Agriculture, 12
Photographs, 12
Professional Organizations, 12

Box 2

Publications, Writings, Notes, 13
Publicity and Media Material, 13
Published Material Collected by Riehl Family, 13
United States Dept. of Agriculture, 13
Ledgers, 13
Military Uniform Brass Buttons, 14
Wood Carvings of Animals by Erwin A. Thompson, 14

Box 3

3. Thompson Family

Thompson Family History, 14
Thompson Family Tree and History, 14
Anna Riehl Thompson, 14
  Biographical Material
  Letters from College
  Korea Missionary Trip
  Other Correspondence
  Poems and Other Writings
J. [James] Arthur Thompson, 17
  Correspondence from family
  Correspondence to Lelia Black, Brown County, Ill.
  Poems
  Other Papers
Arthur Family, 19
  Abraham Arthur
  George Calvin Arthur
  Margaret Jeanette “Nettie” Arthur Thompson
Essie Thompson Beckner, 19
  Poem
Jesse D. Thompson, 19
  Biographical Material
Walter Thompson, 19
  Postcard
Winford Thompson, 20
Diary
Alice Thompson Johnson, 20
Correspondence

**Box 4**

Eleanor Thompson Dodds, 20
Correspondence
Poems
Dodds Family Tree
Ralph J. Thompson, 21
Correspondence
Diary
Writings
Willard Thompson, 21
Correspondence
Erwin A. Thompson, 21
Erwin/Ruth Thompson Family History
Biographical Material
Correspondence
Writings

**Box 5**

Other Material
Ruth Thompson, 23
Biographical Material
Correspondence
Janet Riehl (formerly Thompson), 23
Biographical Material
Correspondence
Lectures
Writings
Julia Thompson, 24
Biographical Material
Thompson Family, 24
Photographs
Family Reunions
Newspaper Clippings
Folder Inventory

Box 1:

1. Riehl Family

Riehl Family History

Emil A. “E. A.” Riehl (1837-1926)

Biographical Material

National Cyclopedia of American Biography entry, 1929
Obituaries, 1925
Biographical Sketches, Tributes, and Articles, ca. 1920s
(see also flat storage)

Joseph Cullen Blair, Dean of Horticulture, University of Illinois, speech in memory of Riehl and of Rev. James R. Reasoner, 1925

Erwin A. Thompson, “The Legend,” 2004


Day Books, 1863-1925

Correspondence

1853, 1922: Correspondents include Amelia Riehl (sister), Nicholas Riehl (father), and Olive Riehl (granddaughter). One letter regards Nicholas Riehl’s death.

Caroline “Lena” Riehl Humphrey [sister of E. A. Riehl]

Correspondence, Photograph, News Clippings, 1913-33

Amelia “Mim” Riehl (1877-1954) [daughter of E. A. Riehl]

Correspondence
1921-22, 1935, 1947, 1952: Correspondents include Alice Riehl, Anna Riehl, and Emma Riehl (her sisters), and Archie Riehl (nephew). Subjects include family news, chicken farming, the low quality of fruit sold by merchants in St. Louis, and young Erwin Thompson’s life on the E. A. Riehl Farm at Godfrey, Ill. [Erwin’s birth nearly killed his mother, Anna Riehl Thompson. Afterward, the poor health of both mother and baby caused the family and doctors to decide that it would be best for her recovery if Erwin were raised at the family farm by Anna’s sisters.]

**Edwin H. Riehl (1868-1951) [son of E. A. Riehl]**

Biographical Material

Newspaper Profile, *Colman’s Rural World*, Jan. 22, 1922 (in flat storage)

Biographical newspaper clipping, 1923

**Emma Riehl Gibbens (1872-1956) [daughter of E. A. Riehl]**

Correspondence

To “Annie” (Anna Riehl Thompson), 1914-22: Subjects include family news, chicken farming, and fruit and nuts.

George W. Gibbens (1860-1948) [husband of Emma Riehl Gibbens]

Obituary, 1948 (in flat storage); photograph

*Sectarianism is Sin*, 8th ed., ca. 1950s, 8 pp. [OCLC 28453365]

**Frank C. Riehl (1867-1932) [son of E. A. Riehl]**

Biographical Material

Newspaper Profile, 1926 (in flat storage)

Calling card

Obituaries, 1932 (see also flat storage)

Correspondence
1902-10, ca. 1920s, 1927: Correspondents include Emma Riehl Gibbens (sister), E. A. Riehl, and Mathilda Riehl (mother). Subjects include business trips to Canada (Winnipeg), Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, North Dakota, Texas, and the American Midwest, South, and West. [Frank C. Riehl first worked for the Union Metallic Cartridge Company, of Bridgeport, Conn. Later, he worked for the Western Cartridge Company, an ammunition manufacturer. In that position, he was transferred to Hawaii and the Philippines in the late 1920s.]

Publications

Poems of the Piasa (Alton, Ill.: Melling & Gaskins, 1896) [cataloged: 811 R44p]

Runes of the Red Race (Alton, Ill.: Melling & Gaskins, 1899) [cataloged: 811 R44r]

“The Passing of a Pioneer” (poem on the death of E. A. Riehl), 1925


Jessie Riehl [wife of Frank C. Riehl]

Correspondence, 1902, 1925, 1927: Correspondents include E. A. Riehl, Emma Riehl Gibbens, and Mathilda Riehl (Frank’s mother). Subjects include family news; the death of E. A. Riehl; life in Honolulu; the trip from Honolulu to Sydney, Australia; and life in Australia, including plant life.

Emmett Adolph Riehl (1899-1970) [son of Frank C. Riehl]

Obituary, 1970

Stella Riehl [daughter of Frank C. Riehl]

Correspondence, ca. 1920s, ca. 1940s, 1971: Correspondents include Alice Riehl (aunt), Amelia “Aunt Mim” Riehl, and Erwin and Ruth Thompson (cousins). Subjects include family news and tax advice.
Frank C. Riehl Family

Letters, Writings, Biographical Material (typescripts)

**Helen “Nell” Riehl McLennan (1869-1925)** [daughter of E. A. Riehl]

Biographical Material

Obituaries, 1925 (see also flat storage)

**Correspondence**

1921-22: Correspondents include Anna Riehl Thompson and Emma Riehl Gibbens (her sisters). Subjects include family news.

**Lectures**

Address at the Farmers’ Institute, Jerseyville, Ill., Feb. 8-9, 1898

**Julia “Judie” Riehl (1871-1940)** [daughter of E. A. Riehl]

**Correspondence**

To Anna Riehl Thompson (sister), 1927: Subjects include family news.

**Walter Riehl (1889-1957)** [son of E. A. Riehl]

**Correspondence and Writings**

1898-99, 1921: Correspondents include Amelia Riehl and Judie (Julia) Riehl (sisters), and Mathilda Riehl (mother). Subjects include family news and school. (Walter was a little boy at the time of the earliest letters.)

**Jack London Riehl (1922-2010)** [son of Walter Riehl]

Riehl Family

Photographs

With annotations, ca. 1860-2004

Without annotations (includes photos of Amelia Riehl, Caroline Riehl Humphrey, E. A. Riehl, and Mathilda Roesch Riehl), reproduced ca. 1995, originals ca. 1910s-50s

E. A. Riehl Railroad Station, ca. 1920s

General Photographs (mostly of the Mississippi River and train stations), ca. 1910s, 1920s, 1943

Ephemera

Postcards (scenes of St. Louis, Mo., Adrian, Mich., Atlantic City, N.J., Corvallis, Ore., Calgary, Alberta, and Victoria, B.C., 1903-12)

Other Printed Material, including $5. bill of Homestead, Pa. "Monopoly Bank" (1892)

Poems, authors unknown


“About E. A. Riehl Farm, now Owned and Operated by Three Women,” 6-page typescript, 1929

Administrative Records

Address Book, containing contact information for Farmers, Dealers, and Customers, ca. 1920s-30s

Lists
Customers (alphabetical), ca. 1930s
Customers – Chestnut Trees, 1933
Customer Reports and Testimonials
Dealers, ca. 1930s-40s
Farms and Nurseries, 1913, 1928-35
Scions and Trees at Riehl Farm, 1924-36
Trees Produced by Other Growers, 1928

Memo Book, containing notes on customer orders and trees planted on Riehl Farm, 1936-44

Nut Tree Tests, 1927, 1930-31, 1934
State of Illinois Dept. of Agriculture Certificate, 1947

Correspondence

Emil A. Riehl

Subjects include the horticulture of nuts and fruits, professional organizations, and the day-to-day operations of the E. A. Riehl Farm.


1893-99: Correspondents include Henry M. Dunlap (Illinois State Horticultural Society), Charles A. Green (Green’s Nursery Co., Rochester, Ill.), and J. Webster (Webster’s Fruit Garden & Nursery, Centralia, Ill.).

1900-8: Correspondents include G. B. Brackett (United States Department of Agriculture [USDA]), L. R. Bryant (Illinois State Horticultural Society), Luther Burbank (Santa Rosa, Calif.), George W. Endicott (Horticultural Society of Southern Illinois), John S. Kerr (Sherman Community Nurseries, Tex.), J. W. Killen (Plymouth Roller Mills, Felton, Del.), H. E. Van Deman (American Nut and Fruit Co., Philadelphia).


1917-19: Correspondents include Willard G. Bixby (Northern Nut Growers’ Association), H. M. Collingwood, R. B. Endicott, J. F. Jones, Robert T. Morris (New York City), and Lloyd C. Stark (Stark Bros. Nurseries and Orchards Co., Louisiana, Mo.).

1920: Correspondents include E. A. Bolster (California Mountain Fruit Co.), B. Buchanan (Farmingdale, Ill.), G. H. Corsan (Toronto), R. B. Endicott, George H. Howe (New York Agricultural Experiment Station), and J. F. Jones.

1921: Correspondents include Willard G. Bixby (Northern Nut Growers’ Association), Oscar Blackmore (Davis, Ill.), G. H. Corsan, G. F. Gravatt (USDA), Henry B. Graves (Detroit, Mich.), C. P. Halligan (Michigan Agricultural College Dept. of Horticulture), H. Heffner (Highland Chestnut Grove, Leeper, Pa.), John H. Heide, Henry D. Spencer (Chicago), and G. A. Zimmerman (Harrisburg, Pa.).


1923: Correspondents include L. F. Dintelmann (Belleville, Ill.), J. M. George (Keystone St. Nurseries, Pittsburgh), Henry B. Graves, F. O. Harrington (Iowa State Horticultural Society), J. F. Jones, C. E. Parsons (Felix Gillet Nursery, Nevada City, Calif.), Reno Rosenfeld (Rosenfeld Peony Gardens, Omaha), S. W. Snyder, and A. M. Whitford (Whitford Nursery, Farina, Ill.).


From C. A. Reed, Northern Nut Growers’ Association (includes some letters related to but not addressed to E. A. Riehl), 1911-24.
Form letter from Woodrow Wilson, seeking support for the U.S. war effort, 1917.

Amelia Riehl

Subjects include the horticulture of nuts and fruits, professional organizations, and the day-to-day operations of the E. A. Riehl Farm.


From C. A. Reed, Northern Nuts Growers’ Association, 1928-34.

From N. F. Drake, Fayetteville, Ark., including letters and documents related to nut farming but not addressed to Amelia Riehl, 1930-33.

From University of Illinois correspondents (Joseph Cullen Blair, A. S. Colby, H. R. Kemmerer), and Lloyd Morey's tribute to Henry F. Rusk, 1947-54.

Postcards from Business Associates, 1944-46

Finances and Orders

1893, 1897, 1902, 1907-8
1919-21
1922
1923-25
1941-46

[For additional financial records, see “Ledgers” in Box 2.]
Honors and Awards

Awards, including ribbons

E. A. Riehl, Honorable Mention for Persimmons, Pan-American Exposition, Buffalo, N.Y., 1901 (flat storage)

1894, 1903, 1910-22
1910-22

Notes on Agriculture (from farmers, dealers, and customers)

Flowers, 1899, 1921-24, 1947

Boones, Butternuts, Filberts, Heartnuts, Hickories, Pecans, and other Nuts, ca. 1925-32

Chestnuts, ca. 1924-33

Walnuts, ca. 1923-31

Photographs

E. A. Riehl Farm Scenes, ca. 1870s-1995

Hulling Scenes, ca. 1930s

J. W. Meyers Orchard, 1920s

Nut Trees on E. A. Riehl Farm, 1913-28

Professional Organizations

Alton Horticultural Society, Proceedings, 1869-70 (photocopies).

Illinois State Horticultural Society
Newsletter, No. 7, Nov. 10, 1929
Two photographs, one is taken on the steps of the University of Illinois Auditorium in 1911 (see flat storage)

Northern Nut Growers’ Association
Annual Meeting Minutes and Programs, 1925, 1932, 1934
Promotional Material, 1927-ca. 1930s
Box 2:

**Publications, Writings, Notes**

Amelia Riehl, 1925-29
Emil A. Riehl, 1912-25 (see also flat storage)

**Publicity and Media Material**

Advertisements and Brochures for Riehl Products, ca. 1920s

Newspaper and Magazine Articles regarding Emil A. Riehl and the Riehl Farm, 1914, 1916, 1919, 1923, 1929, ca. 1920s (see also flat storage)

**Published Material Collected by Riehl Family**

Brochures and Pamphlets regarding Nut Farming, ca. 1920s-30s

Newspaper and Magazine Clippings on nuts and related agricultural products, ca. 1920s (see also flat storage)

**United States Department of Agriculture**

Press Releases regarding Nut Permits, 1925

**Ledgers**

**E. A. Riehl’s Daybooks**
1863-67
1869-84

**Account Ledgers**
1871
1873-85 (expense Book for hired men)
1887-91
1896 (contains information on boarders and fruit crop)
1911-21
1921-Jan. 1925 (E. A. Riehl’s death)
1925-40 (contains information on chestnut harvest, 1916-39)
Order Books
1932-39
1939

Boarders
These boarders were summer visitors, mostly from St. Louis, who lived in cottages near the Riehl home at Evergreen Heights.

1893-95
1895-1910
1901-12

Military Uniform Brass Buttons

Wood Carvings of Animals by Erwin A. Thompson

Box 3:

3. Thompson Family

Thompson Family History
Thompson Family Tree and History

Anna Riehl Thompson (1881-1929) [daughter of Emil A. Riehl, and link between the Riehl and Thompson families]

Biographical Material

Biographical Sketch from The Alumni Record of the University of Illinois, 1918

Obituary, 1929 (see flat storage)
Funeral Program and Poems, 1929
Sympathy Notes about the Death of Anna Riehl Thompson, 1929

Letters from College

[Anna Riehl usually signed her name “Annie.”]

1900
Jan.-May, 1901
June-Dec., 1901
Typescripts, 1900-1
Summary for 1900-1: Correspondents include “Folks” (E. A. and Mathilda Riehl), “Girls” (sisters Amelia Riehl, Emma Riehl Gibbens, Helen Riehl McLennan, and Julia Riehl), “Judie” (Julia Riehl), “Mim” (Amelia Riehl), and “Naughty Boys” (brothers Edwin, Frank, and Walter Riehl). Subjects include University of Illinois courses (mostly chemistry and biology); instructors, such as Clarence W. Alvord, Isabel Bevier, Thomas J. Burrill, Thomas Arkle Clark, Eugene Davenport, and Stephen A. Forbes; vignettes about University Presidents Thomas J. Burrill and Andrew S. Draper; botanical field trips (often to Urbana’s Crystal Lake Park and to the Sangamon River); friends, family, and acquaintances; University clubs, such as the Agricultural Club and Choral Society; Sunday School; Halloween on campus; the annual May Day celebration; and George Eliot’s Silas Marner.

Jan.-May, 1902
June-Dec., 1902
Typescripts, 1902

Summary for 1902: Correspondents include “Folks” (E. A. and Mathilda Riehl), “Girls” (sisters Amelia Riehl, Emma Riehl Gibbens, Helen Riehl McLennan, and Julia Riehl), and “Mim” (Amelia Riehl). Subjects include Anna Riehl’s difficulty in making friends; her frustrations over lacking a suitor; her humorous adaptation of Poe’s “The Raven” for a valentine; Bronte’s Jane Eyre; performing in Faust and “Hiawatha;” singing Chemistry songs; seeing the Ringling Bros. Circus; attending the “little farce” of Shakespearean women; going on outings to the Sangamon River and, in Urbana, to the Deaconess home (the Cunningham Children’s Home, supported by Methodist women); new buildings on campus, such as Chemistry (Davenport Hall) and the Observatory; attending a Jane Addams lecture; courses in Household Science (which she loved) and Physics (with which she struggled); and friends, family, and acquaintances.

Jan.-May, 1903
June-Dec., 1903
Typescripts, 1903-4

Summary for 1903-4: Correspondents include “Folks” (E. A. and Mathilda Riehl) and “Mim” (Amelia Riehl). Subjects include Anna Riehl’s commitment to missionary work; her willingness and ability to speak at religious gatherings; J. Arthur “Taters” Thompson; the celebration of Longfellow’s birthday; the Campus Sing; the annual May Day celebration; the Chicago Tribune cartoonist John T. McCutcheon; being invited to a supper party
at a sorority; her friendship with Prof. and Mrs. J. C. Blair; conversations with Thomas Arkle Clark about her writing; and friends, family, and acquaintances.

Korea Missionary Trip (J. Arthur and Anna Riehl Thompson)

[The Thompsons were Methodist missionaries.]

Letters and Related Papers

Correspondents include E. A. and Mathilda Riehl Anna’s parents), Amelia “Mim” Riehl, Emma Riehl Gibbens, and Julia “Judie” Riehl (Anna’s sisters), Katie Thompson and May Thompson (J. Arthur’s sisters), “Nettie” Thompson (J. Arthur’s mother), Walter Thompson (J. Arthur’s brother), and William J. Thompson (J. Arthur’s father). Subjects include the engagement of Anna Riehl and J. Arthur Thompson; their commitment to one another and to their missionary work; daily life in Songdo and Wonsan, Korea; Anna’s trouble with her eyes; the experience of raising their son Ralph in Korea; the difficulties of maintaining the household (e.g., making clothes and raising food in their garden); J. Arthur’s design and construction of buildings, supervising a labor force of 200; and differences between Korean and American life.

1907-8
Typescripts, 1907-8
1909-10
Typescripts, 1909-10
1911
Typescripts, 1911
1912 (see also flat storage)
Typescripts, 1912-16

Newspaper Article Transcripts about the Thompsons’ time in Korea, 1911-16

“Life and Letters of Anna Riehl Thompson;” Korean Mission Field, 10:9 (Sept. 1914); letters (1912-15); The Illinois Agriculturist, 8:8 (Apr., 1904).

Print of a photograph negative of native and missionary buildings in Korea, 1909

Correspondence and related papers from Chicago Training School for City, Home, and Foreign Missions, 1921-25
Poems and Other Writings

Poems
Rejection Notices for Writing Submissions, 1914-24

J. Arthur Thompson (1883-1966)

Biographical Material

Biographical Sketch from The Alumni Record of the University of Illinois, 1918

Correspondence from family

Most folders include subjects such as family news, work on the family farm, church, and social activities in the Rushville, Ill., area. During this period, J. Arthur Thompson was studying at the University of Illinois.

1900: Correspondents include Clarence Thompson (brother), Katie Thompson (sister), Margaret E. Thompson (grandmother), May Thompson (sister), and Nettie Thompson (mother).

1901: Correspondents include Lorena Thompson Myers (aunt), Anna Thompson (sister), Clarence Thompson, Katie Thompson, May Thompson, Nettie Thompson, Perlie Thompson (cousin), Roy Thompson (brother), and William J. Thompson (father).

1902-3: Correspondents include Mrs. A. B. Moberly, Charles Thompson (grandfather), and Jesse Thompson (cousin).

Jan.-Mar., 1904: Correspondents include J. A. Long (uncle), Clarence Thompson, Katie Thompson, May Thompson, Nettie Thompson, Roy Thompson, and William J. Thompson. Additional subjects include a measles outbreak in Rushville, Ill., and J. Arthur Thompson’s plan to go to Africa as a missionary. [His parents were very upset by this plan, with his father’s letters stating disgust for missionaries and his mother stating that J. Arthur was “dead to us.” Swayed by his parents, he decided not to go to Africa.]
Apr.-Sept., 1904: Correspondents include May Thompson and Nettie Thompson. Nettie Thompson mentions that the family bought a telephone, and that she may visit the St. Louis World’s Fair.

Oct. 1904–June 1905: Correspondents include Anna Thompson (sister), Katie Thompson, Nettie Thompson, and William J. Thompson. Additional subjects include the St. Louis World’s Fair, the Illinois State Fair, and J. Arthur Thompson’s promotion at the Illini (now the Daily Illini).

Typescripts, 1900-1, 1904-6 (incomplete)

1963: One letter each from Gary and Janet Thompson (grandchildren).

Correspondence to Lelia Black, Brown County, Ill.

During this time J. Arthur Thompson was studying at the University of Illinois.

1900-3: Subjects include, in chronological order, the presidential election of 1900; the scene in Champaign on election night; Illinois politics; social life at the Champaign YMCA; clubs; boarding houses; church; Pawnee Bill’s Wild West Show; missionary speakers; students’ misbehavior on Halloween; attendance of an Illinois football game; sleigh rides; a freak accident in which J. Arthur’s eye was injured when a spark came out of a forge during a class; the death of Uncle Theodore Gresclaude in a house fire near Rushville; and the hazing of freshmen by upperclassmen (e.g., throwing freshmen into the Boneyard Creek).

Typescripts, 1900-3

Poems

“Dad’s Diamond Jubilee” (poem for father’s 75th birthday), 1933


Other Papers
List and correspondence with A. D. Fretueg regarding pictures of a picnic, 1914-15

Family Christmas exchange list, 1933

Notice of special meeting of stockholders of Gladacres, Inc. (Rushville, Ill.), 1935

Arthur Family

Arthur Family History

Abraham Arthur (1824-98) [grandfather of J. Arthur Thompson]

Obituary

George Calvin Arthur (1838-1907)

Funeral Notice

Margaret Jeanette “Nettie” Arthur Thompson (1862-1946) [mother of J. Arthur Thompson]

Correspondence with William J. Thompson and newspaper clippings of poems, 1880-81

Obituary

Essie Thompson Beckner [sister of J. Arthur Thompson]

“Mother” (poem on the birthday of Nettie Thompson), 1933

Jesse D. Thompson (1900-46) [brother of J. Arthur Thompson]

Obituary

Walter Thompson (1890-1984) [brother of J. Arthur Thompson]

Postcard from Emma Arthur, 1915
Winford Thompson [first cousin of J. Arthur Thompson]

Diary (photocopy) of a trip to South America with a shipment of purebred cattle, Aug.-Nov. 1919

Alice Thompson Johnson [daughter of J. Arthur Thompson]

Correspondence

1933-42: Correspondents include Emma Riehl Gibbens (aunt), Irene Thompson (niece), J. Arthur Thompson, and Ralph Thompson (brother). Subjects include business school; family news; Alice’s social life in Rock Island, Normal, and Rantoul; various jobs (e.g., housework, office work, retail, work in an ice cream parlor); Alice’s decision to turn down the marriage proposal of a man 20 years her senior; the costs of food, bus and taxi fares, and doctor bills; and the possibility of Alice’s marriage to John W. Johnson, an Air Force pilot stationed at Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul.

1953-62: Correspondents include Eleanor Thompson Dodds (sister), J. Arthur Thompson, and Ralph and Dorothy Thompson. Subjects include Air Force life in Greenland, where Alice’s husband was stationed; life in Las Vegas, where the Johnsons were transferred in 1955; Alice’s ill health (a lung problem); and life in Ft. Myers, Fla., where the Johnsons were transferred in 1959.

Box 4:

Eleanor Thompson Dodds (1913-99) [daughter of J. Arthur Thompson]

Correspondence

1930-40: Correspondents include Alice Thompson Johnson (sister), “Aunties,” Emma Riehl Gibbens (aunt), and Julia “Judie” Riehl (aunt). Subjects include family life, married life, and new babies.

Poem

“Our Blacksmith Shop”
Dodds Family Tree  (compiled by Erwin A. Thompson)

**Ralph James Thompson** [son of J. Arthur Thompson]

**Correspondence**

1940-44: Correspondents include Erwin and Alice Thompson (siblings). Subjects include family news.

**Diary**

“Trip to Illinois” (from Tacoma, Wash.), as recorded by Ralph's wife, Aug.-Sept. 1947 (9-page typescript)

**Writings**

“History of Gladacres, Inc.” and other writings by Ralph Thompson, Eleanor Thompson Dodds, and Erwin A. Thompson, including photographs.

**Willard Thompson (1914-49)** [son of J. Arthur Thompson]

**Correspondence**

1933: postcard from friends

1934-40: Correspondents include J. Arthur Thompson and “Sis.” Subjects include Willard’s literary pursuits, journalism, and a hospital stay.

**Erwin A. Thompson (1915-)** [son of J. Arthur Thompson]

**Biographical Material**

Erwin/Ruth Thompson Family History, 305 pages and appendices.

Newspaper Articles and Press Releases about Erwin A. Thompson, 2006-7, 2010

**Correspondence**

1912, 1925-29, 1932, 1939-45: Correspondents include Alice Thompson (sister), Anna Riehl Thompson (mother), Eleanor
Thompson Dodds (sister), J. Arthur Thompson, and Ruth Thompson (wife). Early letters refer to family news, friends, animals and crops, and life on the E. A. Riehl Farm. As a small boy Erwin lived at his grandfather’s farm. Later letters, dating from Erwin’s service in World War II, discuss his short stories and battle injuries (shrapnel), and his re-reading of the Bible.

**Writings**

**Published**

*The Home Place* *The Long Rows* (Novosibirsk, Russia: Sibirsky Khronograf, 1995) [813 T3728h]

*The Lean Years, Books I* (Novosibirsk, Russia: Sibirsky Khronograf, 1994) [813 T3728L vol. 1]

*The Lean Years, Books II* (Novosibirsk, Russia: Sibirsky Khronograf, 1995) [813 T3728L vol. 2]

*The Second Mile* (Freeman, SD: Pine Hill Press, 1994) [813 T3728s]

*Worth Remembering: The Poetry of Our Heritage* (Bloomington, Ind.: iUniverse, 2009) [811.08 N899]

**Unpublished**

[Many of these works include family photographs and other illustrations.]

“Kentucky”

“Ladies Choice;” “Have I Told You Lately?;” “The Throw Back”

**Box 5:**

“Making the River Road”

“The Old Bluffline”

Poems

Reflection on E. A. Riehl, 1995

“Shannon”

“A Woman Before Her Time” (about Amelia Riehl)

Cartoons accompanied by poems and text, on each side of five pages, ca. 1970s, 1979
Writings on Janet Riehl’s Riehl Life blog, 2007, 2010 (includes interviews with Erwin A. Thompson and poems by him)

**Ruth Thompson (1916-2006) [wife of Erwin A. Thompson]**

**Biographical Material**

Obituaries

**Correspondence**

1942, 1944: Correspondents include Emma Riehl Gibbens and Court Johnston (Ruth’s father). Subjects include family news.

**Janet Riehl (1948- ) [formerly Thompson; daughter of Erwin A. and Ruth Thompson]**

**Biographical Material**

Newspaper Articles and Press Releases about Janet Riehl, 2006

**Correspondence**

2007, 2010: Christmas letters

**Lectures**

“Heritage: Address for Poet Laureate of Lake County Reading,” Apr. 1, 2006, Lakeport, Calif.

**Writings**

*Sightlines: A Poet’s Diary* (Bloomington, Ind.: iUniverse, 2006) [cataloged: 811 R4441s]


"The Book Just Loved Me" (article) and "Crocus" (poem), on Yvonne Perry’s “Author’s Corner” website, 2007

**Julia Thompson (1943-2004)** [daughter of Erwin A. and Ruth Thompson]

**Biographical Material**

Memorial Service and related correspondence, 2004

**Thompson Family**

**Photographs**

With annotations, reproductions 1995; originals ca. 1850s-2004

Without annotations, reproductions 1995; originals 1904-5, ca. 1932-33, ca. 1970s, 1970s (includes photos of Anna Riehl Thompson, Erwin and Ruth Thompson, J. Arthur Thompson, Julia Thompson, and Ralph J. Thompson)

**Family Reunions**

Arthur-Thompson Family Reunions, Newspaper Clippings, 1937

Poem, "Time and Change, by J. Arthur Thompson

**Ephemera**


Program, "Gypsy River," Boys and Girls’ Glee Club of Rushville (Ill.) High School, 1928

Newspaper clippings collected by the Thompson family

**Erma Cramer (friend of Ruth Thompson)**

"My School Days and My Life," 2004