

Cavitt Collection, ca. 1860s-1990s
17.5 cubic ft.

Historical Note

The married couple William R. Cavitt (b. 1849, d. 1924) and Mary M. Mitchell (b. 1854, d. 1914), sister of Alice Mitchell and niece to Harvey Mitchell, were early residents of Bryan, Texas. W. R. Cavitt practiced law in Bryan and served as county attorney 1878-1880 and as state representative of the 19th state legislature January 13th - March 31st, 1885. William R. was also a member of the Texas A & M University board of regents 1883-1896. W. R. and Mary had six children: William Horace (b. 1876, d. 1926), Ethel (b. 1878, d. 1977), Howard Randolph (b.1881, d. 1913), Fred Lee (b. 1885, d. 1950), and twins Esther (b. 1891, d. 1958) and Edith (b. 1891, d. 1978).

Howard R. Cavitt was a businessman and served as Captain and commanding officer of Company G, 2nd Infantry Regiment known as the Bryan Light Guard, Texas National Guard, from 1902-1904. He died at age 32 resulting from exposure in the Brazos River flood in 1913. Fred L. Cavitt was appointed 4th sergeant in the Bryan Light Guard under his brother Howard. He never married and was assistant cashier at City National Bank in Bryan. His hobbies included hunting, gardening, and amateur photography. Esther Cavitt taught at Allen Academy in Bryan, Texas.

Scope and Content Note

Correspondence, postcards, receipts, ledgers, wills, deeds, abstracts of titles, muster rolls, bylaws, military orders, payrolls, handwritten notes, essays, poetry, travel logs, advertisements, monographs, photographs, and clippings document the activities of the Cavitt family, both in personal and business affairs.

The Cavitt Collection is divided into twelve series. Much of the materials were indexed and housed in binders by the previous custodians of the collection. Indexes are found at the beginning of each box/binder. The bulk of the correspondence in Series 1 was organized in this manner, as were five binders of military documents in Series 4, one binder of advertisements in Series 10, the one binder of genealogy research in Series 11, and three binders of photographs in Series 12.

Provenance

Gift of Citizens for Historic Preservation (Brazos Heritage Society).

Index Terms

Cavitt family - Bryan (Tex.)
Bryan (Tex.) - photographs
Cavitt family
Cavitt, Edith
Cavitt, Esther
Cavitt, Ethel
Cavitt, Fred
Cavitt, Horace
Cavitt, Howard
Cavitt, Mary Mitchell
Cavitt, William R.

Related Collections

Cushing Library, Texas A & M University; College Station, Texas:
Cavitt Family Papers, 1830-1940
Cavitt, W. R. Journal, late 1800s
Cavitt, W. R., vertical files