



Summary Information

Title: Fannie Farrington Photograph Album and Scrapbook

Collection Number: 2002:020

Creator: Fannie Farrington

Collection Dates: c. 1900-2002, bulk c. 1900-1940s

Extent: 1 cubic foot (3 boxes)

Language: English

Collection Abstract:

This collection contains a photograph album and scrapbook containing approximately 232 pictures of the Farrington family, the Mann family, and scenes documenting early Diboll social life. The records center on Fannie Farrington, a Southern Pine Lumber Company commissary worker who was also involved in numerous church groups, missions, and social programs that helped improved Diboll's moral atmosphere. Her husband Frank Farrington worked in the Southern Pine Lumber Company commissary from 1904-1908 and later served as Diboll's postmaster from 1908-1925.

Repository:

The History Center
102 N. Temple
Diboll, TX 75941
936-829-3543
www.thehistorycenteronline.com

Author/Processing Information: Processed by Matt Gorzalski in June 2011.

Biographical/Historical Note:

Frank and Fannie Farrington had a significant impact on Diboll's early history. Frank Farrington was born on September 29, 1875 in Newark, New Jersey. He married Fannie Pierce Farrington, born in 1876 in Missouri. By 1903 the Farringtons were living in St. Louis, Missouri, where Frank managed a shoe store and Fannie worked at a dry goods store. It was there they met T. L. L. (Thomas Lewis Latané) Temple, the founder of Southern Pine Lumber Company and the company town of Diboll, Texas. Temple offered Mr. Farrington a job at the company commissary in Diboll, and requested that Fannie improve Diboll's moral atmosphere, as Temple and the Farringtons shared Christian Science beliefs.

Fannie Farrington initially worked without pay in the commissary's millinery department where she gained a reputation of unselfish servitude. Diboll's first library was built in 1908, and Farrington served as the first librarian until Temple closed the library because the billiard and card tables resulted in a community gambling problem. During World War I, Farrington set up a Red Cross sewing room in the former library building and helped collect monetary donations at the commissary. She was also president of Diboll's first parent-teacher organization, involved with the Methodist church, and created missions to clothe needy children after the closure of company logging camps in the 1940s created a sudden population increase in Diboll. Additionally, she played a significant role in founding Pine Grove Mission Church in Diboll in 1942.

By 1908, Frank Farrington had become Diboll's postmaster, a position he held until his death on December 11, 1925. Fannie Farrington retired from her commissary work in 1950 and continued to serve Diboll through the various church mission and social activities. She died on October 4, 1967.

The Farringtons had one son, Franklyn, born in 1903 in Missouri. He graduated from Diboll High School in 1922 and later from Baylor University's dental school. He practiced dentistry in Beaumont until his death in August of 1953. Franklyn married Eddith Mann and they had one daughter, Alma Frances. She married Ed Benkert.

Collection Scope and Content:

This collection consists of a photograph album and scrapbook of Fannie Farrington. The photograph album contains approximately 232 images of the Farrington family in Diboll, Angelina County, Texas. Some of the photographs are identified while most are not, and the locations depicted in many shots are unclear. Some pictures are poses within or beside Texas South-Eastern Railroad Company locomotives, particularly engines 5 and 9, and TSE rights of way. Other photographs are taken around Southern Pine Lumber Company sawmills and log pond, as well as various early Diboll houses. The collection includes an album of copy prints for reference created by History Center staff prior to the donation of the original record. The photographs primarily date between c. 1900 – c. 1930.

The second piece is a scrapbook that is entirely a photocopied reproduction. It contains photographs, clippings, correspondence, and poems about Fannie Farrington and members of the Mann family such as Dr. D. A. Mann and his granddaughter Elizabeth Carter. Some clippings on Farrington are biographical and document her service and impact in the Diboll community. The poems are mostly by Farrington and are Christian in nature. Other papers related to her son Franklyn Farrington, his education at Baylor University, and his dental practice in Beaumont. The scrapbook also contains photographs of Ruth Ashford Weise, Alice Ashford Dale, and Frances Farrington Benkert. These records are dated from c. 1920 – 1950s.

Arrangement: This collection is arranged and described at the collection level.

Subject Terms

Topics

- Dwellings -- Texas -- Diboll
- Families -- Texas -- Diboll
- Steam locomotives -- Texas -- Diboll

Corporate Names

- Baylor University

- Texas South-Eastern Railroad Company

Personal Names

- Ashford, Julia, 1906-2002
- Farrington, Frank, 1875-1925
- Farrington, Franklyn, 1903-1956
- Farrington, Fannie, 1876-1967
- Mann, D. A.
- Mann, Alma Sturrock
- Weise, Ruth Ashford

Family Names

- Farrington family
- Mann family

Genres

- Photographs
- Photograph albums
- Scrapbooks

Locations

- Angelina County (Tex.)
- Diboll (Tex.)
- Diboll (Tex.) -- Social life and customs
- Texas, East

Access and Use

Access Restrictions: There are no access restrictions on this collection.

Acquisition Information: This collection was donated by Frances Farrington Benkert, granddaughter of Frank and Fannie Farrington, over the course of two accessions. Accession 2002:020 was donated on February 28, 2002 and accession 2002:062 was donated on June 21, 2002.

Custodial History: Frances Farrington Benkert maintained possession of these records prior to donating them to The History Center. The photograph album from the 2002:020 accession was originally loaned for the creation of copy prints, but the original album was later donated in May 2002.

Citation: Fannie Farrington Photograph Album and Scrapbook, c. 1900-2002, 2002:020, The History Center, Diboll

Related Material:

Mann Family Collection, c. 1907-1920, 2002:017, The History Center, Diboll, TX

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Bibliography:

- Gerland, Jonathan. "Fannie Farrington: Diboll's First Lady." In *The Pine Bough* 4 (1999), 10-13. Diboll: T. L. L. Temple Memorial Library and Archives, 1999.

Collection Inventory

Box 1

- Item 1 Photograph Album, c. 1900-1930s

- Item 1 Photograph Album Copy Prints

Box 2

- Folder 1 Photograph of Frances Farrington Benkert and Husband Ed Benkert, 2002
- Folder 2 Photographs of "Tom Thumb Wedding" – Eddith Mann and Franklyn Farrington
- Folder 3 Photograph of Mary Mann Ashford
- Folder 4 Photograph of Eddith Mann, Eunice Mann, and Louise, 1909
- Folder 5 Photograph of Ruth Stovall, Cleo Agee, Eddith Mann, and Bill Agee, c. 1916
- Folder 6 Photograph of Diboll School Class, undated
- Folder 7 Franklyn Farrington Boy Scout Identification Card, 1918
- Folder 8 Fannie Farrington Scrapbook, c. 1920s-1960s