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## Carpenter Collection (MSS 525)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
 Department of Library Special Collections  
 Western Kentucky University  
 Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 525 CARPENTER Collection**

3 boxes. 32 folders. 185 items. 1820-1963. Originals, photographs.

1981.112.1

***BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE***

John F. Carpenter (1785-1835) and his wife Elizabeth Mustin (1792-1845) emigrated from Virginia to Kentucky in 1820. Their house and farm in Warren County, Kentucky later became the home of their son Jonathan T. Carpenter (1809-1866) and three succeeding generations of Carpenters. In 1831, Jonathan T. Carpenter married Elizabeth Dunn (Jonathan's sister Mary Ann Carpenter married Elizabeth's brother, Spencer Dunn, in 1828). The son of Jonathan T. and Elizabeth Carpenter, Luther M. Carpenter, married Sarah Eleanor Duncan in 1866. Their children included Annie May Carpenter (1870-1890), Jonathan Tinsley Carpenter (1869-1951), Florence Carpenter (1878-1946), Luther Carpenter, Jr., (1876-1950), Herbert Edgar Carpenter (1881-1965), and Mildred "Minnie" Carpenter (1867-1933). In 1888, Minnie Carpenter married James Harvey Tucker (1865-1962), the son of Dr. James Edwin Tucker and Sarah "Sallie" J. Moore. Minnie and James's daughter Mildred Tucker (1894-1994) married John Vernon Hardcastle.

***COLLECTION NOTE***

This collection contains genealogical data, business and farm records, correspondence and other personal papers of members of the Carpenter, Tucker and Hardcastle families. The bulk of the collection consists of farm records and accounts, and some personal papers, of Jonathan T. Carpenter, his son Luther M. Carpenter, and several of Luther's children. An inventory, genealogical notes, and clippings relating to family members and the Carpenter home are in Box 1, Folder 1.

Box 1 contains genealogical data on the Carpenter, Tucker and Dunn families (Folder 2). The remainder of this box contains mostly farm and financial records of Jonathan T. Carpenter, his son Luther Carpenter, and Luther's son Jonathan T. Carpenter. Included are an account book (Folder 3) containing Jonathan T. Carpenter's tobacco accounts as well as his son Luther's expense records and contracts relating to tobacco, corn crops, land and farm labor. Also included are Luther's accounts relating to his guardianship of his underaged sister Ella, and his personal journal recording weather and farm activities and giving an account of the sudden illness and death of his son George Blakey Carpenter. Other family records in or inserted later

into this volume include an 1820 deed to Luther's father John F. Carpenter, family data on the Carpenters and Tuckers, a flyer for the Pleasant Hill Academy in Oakland, Kentucky, and two medical accounts of Dr. James E. Tucker. An account book of Luther's father Jonathan T. Carpenter (Folder 4) contains farm records and miscellaneous accounts and notes, including subscriber information for the Smiths Grove Library Society, a cholera remedy, and a list of the names and ages of his slaves. An account book used by both Jonathan T. Carpenter and his son Luther (Folder 6) includes a record of an 1852 militia court of assessment listing names of persons fined. Jonathan T. Carpenter's 1864 will (Folder 7) includes bequests of slaves to his children, together with a codicil taking into account the depreciation of their value as a consequence of the "war policy of the powers that be." The business records of Luther Carpenter include farm, tobacco and estate accounts (Folders 8, 9), bank records (Folder 11), miscellaneous accounts, contracts and licenses (Folders 12, 13), and tax receipts (Folder 14). Personal correspondence of Luther Carpenter (Folder 10) includes courtship letters to his future wife Sarah "Sallie" Duncan in which he discusses the propriety of corresponding with her, describes attending a July 4<sup>th</sup> picnic, and comments on the necessity of choosing a marriage partner wisely. In an 1863 letter to Luther, his Missouri cousin Nannie Walker writes of her family and schoolteaching, and expresses dismay over the Carpenters' Union sympathies; she asks Luther's brother Spencer, serving in the Union Army, not to "shoot my southerner." The remainder of Box 1 contains farm account books (Folders 16, 17) of Luther Carpenter's son Jonathan T. Carpenter, together with invoices for his education at the Kentucky Military Institute (Folder 15).

Box 2 contains mostly materials relating to Luther Carpenter's wife, daughters Florence, Annie May ("May"), Mildred ("Minnie"), son Herbert, and members of the Tucker family. Papers of Luther's wife Sarah "Sallie" (Duncan) Carpenter (Folder 1) include letters of condolence on the death of her daughter May, a list of property allotted to her as Luther's widow, and a novelty check from her son Jonathan T. Carpenter drawn on the "Bank of Prosperity." Papers of May Carpenter (Folder 2) consist of an autograph album and letters, one from May to her sister Minnie, written while May attended Cedar Bluff College in Woodburn, Kentucky, and several to May from Virginia "Jennie" Amos, a former Cedar Bluff classmate also from Warren County. Jennie writes lively and very affectionate letters, describing her travails teaching 60 "brats" in Indiana, gossiping frankly about family and schoolmates, recounting her social activities while living with her sister and brother-in-law in Tennessee, including a women-only picnic where they removed their corsets, and speculating freely on the relationship of newly married Winfield Scott Claypool and Bettie Tucker, the sister-in-law of May's sister Minnie. Minnie (Carpenter) Tucker's papers (Folder 3) include an autograph album and a letter to her mourning the death of her sister May. Papers of Florence Carpenter (Folder 4) include a photograph in a homemade frame that also appears to record the names of friends or schoolmates. Papers of Herbert Carpenter (Folder 5) include school records, notes and receipts, and family letters to him; his farm records and accounts (Folders 6, 7) record livestock, crops, labor, and household expenses. Letters to Minnie's daughter Mildred Tucker (Folder 8) are from Graydon Tilbury and Harry W. Venable, written while both were serving overseas during World War I. Also included (Folder 9) are history-themed papers on Bowling Green and Warren County and Mildred's history of the Samuel Davies Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Papers of Mildred's grandfather Dr. James E. Tucker (Folder 11) consist of a letter to his future wife, Sallie Moore, outlining his future plans and referring to the secrecy of their engagement.

Box 3 contains pages from an unidentified account book (Folder 1), and a ledger (Folder 2) of Mildred Tucker's father, James Harvey Tucker, recording Commonwealth process received by Tucker while he was sheriff of Warren County, Kentucky.

### ***SHELF LIST***

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Carpenter Family</b>	<b>1820-1901</b>	<b>106 items</b>
Folder 1	Inventory; clippings with family data		16 items
Folder 2	Genealogy notes	n.d.	9 items
Folder 3	Jonathan T. Carpenter and Luther – Carpenter – Account book and journal	1820-1886	1 item
Folder 4	Jonathan T. Carpenter – Account book	1826-1858	2 items
Folder 5	Jonathan T. Carpenter – Miscellaneous business papers	1845-1864	3 items
Folder 6	Jonathan T. Carpenter and Luther Carpenter – Account book	1849-1882	3 items
Folder 7	Jonathan T. Carpenter – Will and estate inventory of stocks and notes	1863-1866	2 items
Folder 8	Luther Carpenter – Account book	1858-1898	1 item
Folder 9	Luther Carpenter – Farm account book	1860-1874	1 item
Folder 10	Luther Carpenter – Correspondence	1861-1874	8 items
Folder 11	Luther Carpenter – Bank records	1871-1897	8 items
Folder 12	Luther Carpenter – Accounts, contracts, licenses, etc. relating to tobacco	1871-1879	7 items
Folder 13	Luther Carpenter – Miscellaneous accounts, contracts, licenses; Carpenter v. Claypool	1877-1897	17 items
Folder 14	Luther Carpenter, Luther Carpenter, Jr. and Jonathan T. Carpenter – Tax receipts	1866-1897	23 items
Folder 15	Jonathan T. Carpenter – Accounts from Kentucky Military Institute	1886-1887	3 items

Folder 16	Jonathan T. Carpenter – Account book	1891-1896	1 item
Folder 17	Jonathan T. Carpenter – Account book	1895-1901	1 item
<b>BOX 2</b>	<b>Carpenter and Tucker families</b>	<b>1892-1963</b>	<b>76 items</b>
Folder 1	Sarah (Duncan) Carpenter – Letters to, bank book, widow’s allotment	1868-1912	8 items
Folder 2	Annie May Carpenter – Autograph album, correspondence	1884-1890	15 items
Folder 3	Mildred “Minnie” (Carpenter) Tucker – Letters to, autograph album, prescription	1881-1890	4 items
Folder 4	Florence Carpenter – School photo; invitation to Kentucky Military Institute dance	1899, n.d.	2 items
Folder 5	Herbert E. Carpenter – Report card, letters to, tax receipts	1891-1924	14 items
Folder 6	Herbert E. Carpenter – Farm records	1915-1937	2 items
Folder 7	Herbert E. Carpenter – Account book	1902-1945	2 items
Folder 8	Mildred Tucker – Letters to	1918-1919	4 items
Folder 9	Papers presented at Bowling Green, Kentucky chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution	n.d.	4 items
Folder 10	J. Vernon Hardcastle - Dark Tobacco Growers Association membership certificate	1922	1 item
Folder 11	James E. Tucker – Letter to Sallie Moore	1864	1 item
Folder 12	A. James Wardlaw – Checks, note	1864-1879	11 items
Folder 13	Miscellaneous letters, receipts, printed matter	1862-1963, n.d.	8 items

<b>BOX 3</b>	<b>Miscellaneous; James H. Tucker</b>	<b>1911-1927</b>	<b>3 items</b>
Folder 1	Pages from account book; bank draft	1911	2 items
Folder 2	James H. Tucker – Sheriff’s ledger	1917-1927	1 item

### ***BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD***

MSS CARPENTER Collection 1820-1963  
525

Correspondence, business and farm records, and genealogical data of the Carpenter family of Warren County, Kentucky, primarily Jonathan T. Carpenter, his son Luther M. Carpenter, and Luther’s children. Includes some correspondence and papers of members of the Tucker and Hardcastle families.

3 boxes. 32 folders. 185 items. Originals, photographs.

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### ***SUBJECT ANALYTICS***

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 Carpenter, George Blakey, 1872-1876 – Relating to B1,F3  
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Carpenter, Luther M., Jr., 1876-1950 – Relating to B1,F14  
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**SEE or SEE ALSO**

Carpenter, May, 1870-1890

See:

Carpenter, Annie May