

Virgin Family Photo Collection

Collection # 7.008

Finding Aid prepared by Rebecca Damptz, CA



DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Archives and Special Collections Department
Decatur Public Library
130 N. Franklin St.
Decatur, IL 62523

localhistory@decaturlibrary.org

217-421-9766

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COLLECTION SUMMARY

Collection Number: 7.008

Collection Title: Virgin Family Photo Collection

Dates: c. 1900-1940

Size: .5 linear ft.

Creator/Collector: Virgin Family

Acquisition Information: Materials were transferred from the Macon County History Museum to the Decatur Public Library on January 22, 2020.

Accruals: Accruals are not expected.

Custodial History: Materials were originally donated to the Macon County History Museum, who transferred them to the Decatur Public Library in 2020.

Languages: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: Local History Room, Archives and Special Collections Department, Decatur Public Library, Decatur, Illinois.

Processed By: Rebecca Damptz CA, 2022

Conservation Notes: None.

RIGHTS AND ACCESS

Physical Access Restrictions

None

Technical Access Restrictions

None

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INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Preferred Citation

[item identification], [collection title], [collection number], Decatur Public Library, Department of Archives and Special Collections, Decatur, Illinois.

Related Collections

None.

Separated Material

None.

Published Descriptions

Not applicable

Location of Originals

Not applicable

Location of Copies

Not applicable.

Publication Note

Not applicable

Subject Headings

Virgin Family, Whitson Family, Decatur IL

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

The photos in this collection are from the Virgin Family, and mention Bessie (Virgin) Whitson, Donald Whitson, J.R. Virgin, and Lora (Michels) Virgin.

James R. Virgin was born in 1869 in Wayne County, and worked for the City of Decatur for 27 years. He was married to Lora (Michel) Virgin, and together they had a daughter named Bessie. He died in 1946 at 77 years old. Lora (Michel) Virgin was born in 1870 in Wayne County to Reuben and Mary Michels, and married James R. Virgin in 1892. She was a member of the West Side Church of the Nazarene and Golden Crown camp No. 129, Royal Neighbors of America. She died of a heart attach at 70 years old in 1941.

Bessie (Virgin) Whitson was born in 1893 to James R. and Lora Virgin. She married Charles R. Whitson in Albion, IL in 1913. Together they had one son, James Donald Whitson. She was a member of the Methodist Church in Golden Gate, IL, the Owen Scott chapter 984 Order of the Eastern Star, and the Golden Crown camp Royal Neighbors of America. Bessie died in 1939 after a prolonged illness. Her husband, Charles R. Whitson, died suddenly in 1951 at the age of 62. James Donald Whitson was the son of Bessie and Charles Whitson. He married Beulah Baker in 1936. He died in 1970. Beulah was born in Flora, IL to Ward and Lydia Baker. She was a seamstress, and member of the Prairie Avenue Christian Church. She died at 75 in 1990.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of materials from the Virgin family. The collection is .5 linear foot. It contains photographs of the family.

The photos were originally in a photo album. They were removed from the album and placed in sleeves. The order of the photos was kept as close to that of the album. Most of the photos are not marked with who is in the photo.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

I. History

| Folder Name | Box # | Folder # |
|-------------------------|--------|----------|
| James R. Virgin | Box #1 | FF 1 |
| Lora (Michels) Virgin | | FF 2 |
| Bessie (Virgin) Whitson | | FF 3 |
| Beulah (Baker) Whitson | | FF 4 |
| Charles R. Whitson | | FF 5 |
| James Donald Whitson | | FF 6 |

II. Photographs

| Folder Name | Box # | Folder # |
|-------------|-------|----------|
| Photographs | | FF 7 |