COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator:
Brown, Nell Houston

Inclusive Dates:
1883-1946

Scope & Content:
The Nell Houston Brown Papers, 1883-1946, consist of 42 letters, 165 picture postcards, 42 photographic postcards, one standard postcard, various pamphlets and travel guides, one postcard album, one photograph album, one scrapbook, one Bible and a Psalms book.

The correspondence includes notes written to Nell from family friends. Many are sympathy letters in reference to the death of her father, Charles Brown, in 1933. Other letters from her Aunt Carrie (Brown) discuss family news, everyday life, and health. There is also a handful of letters from one James Patterson all written on hotel stationery from his travels. Patterson worked at the Gallatin Dry Goods Company on the Gallatin Public Square.

There are also short notes from Willie Solomon, her mother, to Charles, her father, dated 1883. It is assumed the notes are part of their courtship, as they discuss accompanying each other to parties and making evening plans. Charles and Willie were married on November 6, 1883.

There are over 200 postcards that span from Asia, Africa, Europe, and South America, with the majority from various sites around the United States. While some are blank and others illegible, it seems that most were sent to Nell from family friends. There is also a separate postcard album with approximately 65 more postcards.

Nell attended Belmont College for Young Women and kept some brochures and pamphlets about the school. These brochures help depict life and social customs on
Belmont’s campus around 1899-1903. She appears to have been an active alumna. There is a letter from the alumni association regarding dues as well as programs from school events in the 1930s. Nell also kept a souvenir book about the Sumner County Sesquicentennial in 1937.

The scrapbook is composed of newspaper clippings, poetry and short handwritten entries. It appears that Nell was interested in poetry and enjoyed writing her own. Many of the pages contain short poems she wrote on topics such as “Happiness,” “Friendship,” and “Life.”

The photograph album contains pictures of presumed friends and family. “1905” is written at the top of the first two pages. However, the photos themselves are not labeled, and the persons pictured are not identified. Nevertheless, these photos provide a glimpse into early 20th century daily life and events.

There is a Psalms book that belonged to Nell’s uncle, Frank C. Brown. Nell’s personal Bible is filled with Nell’s notations on various scripture. It is in poor condition, possibly from Nell’s extensive use.

**Physical Description/Extent:**
1 cubic foot

**Accession/Record Group Number:**
Ac. No. 90-273

**Language:**
English

**Permanent Location:**
X-B-6

**Repository:**
Tennessee State Library and Archives, 403 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee, 37243-0312

**Administrative/Biographical History**
Nell Houston Brown was born in Sumner County, Tennessee, on December 18, 1885, the daughter of Charles Brooks Brown and Willie Houston Solomon. Her mother died on January 27, 1886, when Nell was just one year old, and is buried in Gallatin City Cemetery.

Her father, Charles, married Sallie W. Gray in 1891. He worked as a cashier at a Gallatin bank. He died on October 20, 1933, from pneumonia in his left lung; he is buried in Gallatin City Cemetery.
Nell Brown attended the Belmont College for Young Women from 1902 to 1903. While there, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority until the Belmont chapter lost its charter. Her occupation is listed as “housekeeper” on her death certificate.

Nell Brown died on November 19, 1954, in Gallatin. She is buried with her parents at Gallatin City Cemetery.

Organization/Arrangement of Materials
Items in the collection are arranged alphabetically by document type.

Conditions of Access and Use

Restrictions on Access:
No restrictions

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:
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Index Terms

Personal Names:
Brown, Nell Houston
Brown, Charles Brooks, 1860-1933
Gray, Sallie W.
Solomon, Willie Houston, 1860-1886

Personal Names (As Authors):

Corporate Names/Organizations/Government Bodies:
Belmont College for Young Women (Nashville, Tenn.)
Chi Omega Sorority
Ward-Belmont College (Nashville, Tenn.)

Subjects:
Education -- Curricula -- Tennessee -- Nashville
Women’s colleges -- Tennessee -- Nashville
Women -- Education -- Tennessee -- Nashville
Women -- Societies and clubs
Geographic Names:

- Africa -- History -- 20th century -- Sources
- Asia -- History -- 20th century -- Sources
- Australia -- History -- 20th century -- Sources
- Europe -- History -- 20th century -- Sources
- Nashville (Tenn.) -- History -- 20th century -- Sources
- South America -- History -- 20th century -- Sources
- Southern States -- Intellectual life -- 20th century
- Tennessee -- Social life and customs -- 20th century
- United States -- History -- 20th century -- Sources

Document Types:

- Bibles
- Christmas cards
- Correspondence
- Pamphlets
- Photograph albums
- Photographic postcards
- Picture postcards
- Postcards
- Psalters (books)
- Publications (documents)
- Scrapbooks

Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition:

The Nell Houston Brown Papers were acquired by the Tennessee State Library and Archives in 1990 from an unknown source.

Processing and Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:

Nell Houston Brown Papers, 1883-1946, Tennessee State Library and Archives

Processing Information:

Processing completed by Sara Horne in December 2015.
## CONTAINER LIST

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