

The Filson Historical Society
Invitation Collection, 1843-1993

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Size of Collection:
1.33 cubic feet

Locator number:
Mss. A I62

Invitation Collection, 1843-1993

Historical Note

This collection represents many major events that happened in Louisville and surrounding cities throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Events of national significance include the inauguration ceremonies of Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Richard Nixon, as well as the dedication of the 1893 World's Columbian Commission. An invitation to a reception held at Bowman Field in honor of aviator Charles Lindbergh after his transatlantic flight is also included.

Local events include commencement ceremonies for the Louisville Girls High School, Male High School, Nazareth College, Kentucky State College, the Kentucky Military Institute, and others. High-society events from the 1950s and 1960s include debutante balls given by the Spinsters Cotillion Club and the Coronation Ball of the Pegasus Queen as part of the Kentucky Derby Festival.

The collection also provides a glimpse into more everyday customs and styles through private events such as dinners, weddings, picnics, club meetings, church gatherings, and funerals.

Invitation Collection, 1843-1993

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains invitations dating from 1843 to 1993, as well as a few announcements and event programs. The collection contains over 300 items organized by type of event into five categories: Ceremonies and Meetings, Social Events and Parties, Weddings and Anniversaries, Funerals, and Other/Unknown. Invitations are organized by date within these categories.

Most of the invitations are from the Louisville area, but some are from other cities in Kentucky, including Frankfort, Lexington, Paris, Owensboro, Anchorage, La Grange, Danville, Harrodsburg, Bardstown, Winchester, and Glasgow. Many are also from other states, including Indiana, Tennessee, Illinois, New York, and others.

Included are invitations to presidential and gubernatorial inaugurations, building openings and dedications, graduation commencement ceremonies, organization meetings, balls, banquets, holiday parties, weddings, funerals, and many other types of events.

This collection is a transfer from the Filson's library collection. An index is available.

Invitation Collection, 1843-1993

Folder List

Box 1

- Folder 1: Ceremonies and Meetings, 1871-1910
- Folder 2: Ceremonies and Meetings, 1924-1936
- Folder 3: Ceremonies and Meetings, 1938-1949
- Folder 4: Ceremonies and Meetings, 1951-1959
- Folder 5: Ceremonies and Meetings, 1960-1962
- Folder 6: Ceremonies and Meetings, 1963-1968
- Folder 7: Ceremonies and Meetings, 1969-1977 and undated

Box 2

- Folder 8: Social Events and Parties, 1843-1890
- Folder 9: Social Events and Parties, 1892-1931
- Folder 10: Social Events and Parties, 1933-1954
- Folder 11: Social Events and Parties, 1956-1959
- Folder 12: Social Events and Parties, 1960-1961

Box 3

- Folder 13: Social Events and Parties, 1962-1963
- Folder 14: Social Events and Parties, 1964-1965
- Folder 15: Social Events and Parties, 1966
- Folder 16: Social Events and Parties, 1967-1968
- Folder 17: Social Events and Parties, 1969-1970
- Folder 18: Social Events and Parties, 1971-1985 and undated

Box 4

- Folder 19: Weddings and Anniversaries, 1868-1884
- Folder 20: Weddings and Anniversaries, 1886-1890
- Folder 21: Weddings and Anniversaries, 1891-1899
- Folder 22: Weddings and Anniversaries, 1902-1936
- Folder 23: Weddings and Anniversaries, 1938-1970 and undated
- Folder 24: Funerals, 1858-1927 and undated
- Folder 25: Other/Unknown Type of Event

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Subject Headings

Anniversaries.
Commencement Ceremonies.
Debutante Balls – Kentucky – Louisville.
Funeral rites and ceremonies.
Holidays – Kentucky – Louisville.
Inaugurations.
Invitation cards.
Kentucky Derby.
Parties.
Weddings.