

Collection: The Dowling Family Papers**Accession Number:** 1996.1.1

Finding Aid

Date Range: 1870-1986**Bulk Date:** 1930s-1940s**Creator:** Jane Dowling**Containers:** 5 containers**Storage Location:** Library and Archives**Aid Created By:** Alexandria Rossillo, intern (completed July 17, 2012)

Biographical Information:

The Dowling's were an important family of the Paterson area, owning the Dowling Estates, a cow farm. John W. Dowling (b.1870, d. June 6, 1945), ran a Dairy farm with which he delivered milk around town. Dowling was also involved in local politics. He was elected to office in 1914, and he was one of the first six councilmen for West Paterson after it became its own borough. John W. Dowling married Ellen C. Dowling (Murphy) (b. 1872, d. June 9, 1952) in the year 1901. In the year 1880, Ellen had immigrated to the United States from Northern Ireland.

John and Ellen Dowling had five daughters: Catherine (b.1902, d.1983), Jane (b. October 17, 1905, d. October 20 1995), Ann (b.1905, d.1984), Mary (b.1907, d.1989), and Sarah (b. April 20, 1910, d. October 13, 1994). The only daughter to marry was Ann, who wed Mr. Edward J. Keyes (d.1984) on December 28, 1931 at the age of 26. Edward was a police sergeant possibly for the city of Paterson. They had no children. For over forty years, Mary and Ann were both teachers in the Passaic school system. Mary spent a few years at the Alps Road School and the Little Falls School No. 3, as well as the Mountain View School. She began teaching in the early 1930s with her bachelor's degree and around 1938, she received her Master's degree from Montclair State University, also having attended Rutgers University. She retired from teaching sometime around 1970. Sarah and Jane both worked for the Dowling Oil Co.; Sarah as a worker, Jane as a bookkeeper. Sarah also worked at the Passaic County Probation Office. Jane was a parishioner of St. Bonaventure's.

After John Dowling's death in 1945, sometime between March 1947 and April 1952, Ellen Dowling and her daughters moved to 963 McBride Avenue. The Dowling's remained at this address until Jane Dowling's death in 1995. All five Dowling daughters, both Mr. & Mrs.

Dowling, and Mr. And Mrs. Keys are buried in Holy Sepulcher Cemetery, Paterson New Jersey, in plots 1-10 of Lot 14 in section M-4.

Scope and Content:

The Dowling Collection is an archival collection which focuses on the family life of John W. Dowling, his wife Ellen and their five daughters, while they resided in the Paterson area. The collection mainly consists of photographs of the Dowling Homestead and vacations. Passaic County places depicted include Mountain View School, Alps Road School, Randall Carter School. Places outside of Passaic County depicted in vacation photographs include Chateau Frontenac, Montreal, Niagara Falls, Ottawa, Quebec, Wild Turkey Inn (Canada), Cruise to Nova Scotia(Maine), Washington, D.C, Washington Hoover Airport (Maryland), the Sweatheart Inn(Massachusetts), Concord, Lake Champlain (New Hampshire), Asbury Park, Atlantic City, Branchville, Dey Mansion, High Point, Juniata, Morristown, Ringwood Manor in Ringwood, Skyline Drive (New Jersey), Ausable Chasm, Lake George, Lake Placid, Mackinaw Island, Rye Beach, Silver Bay, White Face Mountain (New York), and Williamsburg(Virginia).

Also note, one tintype is among the photographs in this collection.

This collection also contains several certificates including graduation and baptismal (some of which are framed), and several oversized documents. Two framed documents were also among the collection.

Series:

Upon beginning this finding aid, the Dowling Collection resided in two boxes, of which one box was far more organized than the other. This box consisted primarily of photographs and had been separated into folders. The second box consisted of oversized items and seemed to lack any organization. Beyond having been separated, the collection had no recognizable order or series and therefore has been reorganized to group types of material. In order to protect the pictures, the photo albums have been broken down and disassembled. The original order and groupings of the photos has been documented in its original order. The two framed documents which were included in the collection were taken out of the frames due to water damage concerns. Photographs were taken of these two items, before they were removed, and can be seen on PastPerfect.