

Descriptive Summary:

Creator:	Edward and Kate Sturm McCall Rotan
Title:	Rotan (Edward and Kate Sturm McCall) Papers, 1850-1931, 1958
Inclusive Dates:	1850-1931, 1958
Bulk Dates:	1850-1931
Abstract:	The Rotan Papers contain literary productions, correspondence, photographs, clippings, and a ledger book.
Accession #:	1240
Extent:	0.90 linear feet (2 document boxes)
Language:	Collection is in English
Repository:	The Texas Collection, Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

Biographical Note:

Edward Rotan was born in 1844 in Sparta, Tennessee. At age sixteen he left home to attend Burritt College in Spencer, Tennessee. The American Civil War broke out two years later, and Rotan enlisted in Company K, 16th Tennessee Infantry, Wright's Brigade. He fought in a number of battles, and was wounded in the Battle of Perryville. After the war he moved to Waco, Texas, and became a teacher at Speegleville and East Waco schools. In 1870 he joined W.R. Kellum in the general merchandise business. After Kellum died in 1890 the firm was renamed the Rotan Grocery Company.

Rotan was very involved in community activities in the Waco area. In 1892 Rotan became president of the First National Bank a position he held for the next twenty-eight years. He also served as the bank's board of directors chairman. He was a trustee of the Waco Public Schools for twenty-one years, and president of the Texas Telephone Company, the Waco Railway Street Company, Brazos Valley Telephone Company, Bankers Trust Company, and Texas Townsite Company. He was vice president of Electric Construction Company, Waco Drug and Stationary Company, Behrens Drug Company, and Dr. Pepper Company. He was also treasurer of the Waco Knitting Mills and Texas Central Railroad. He was responsible for bringing the first street cars, drawn by horses, to Waco. The town of Rotan in Fisher County is named after him. By the time he died in March of 1932, he was a multi-millionaire. He is buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

Kate Sturm McCall Rotan was born in 1851 in Mount Vernon, Kentucky. The next year her family moved to Waco. She graduated from Waco Female College in 1865, then taught at a school in East Waco where she met Edward Rotan. They married in 1869, and had nine children. Kate Rotan was also very involved in the community as the first president of the State Federation of Women's Clubs, regent of the Henry Downs Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, president of the Antoinette Rotan Home for elderly women, vice president of the state United Charities, and a member of the board that established a State Home for Girls in Gainesville. She also aided in establishing the first public library in Waco and donated the land for the Rotan Drive, later Riverside Drive, in 1911. She died in October 1931, one year before her husband Edward Rotan, and was buried in the Oakwood Cemetery.

Sources:

Kelley, Dayton. *Handbook of Waco and McLennan County Texas*. Waco: Texian Press, 1972.

Seals, Reverend Monroe. *History of White County*. 1935. USGenWeb Archives.

<http://files.usgwarchives.net/tn/white/history/1935/historyo/chapter530nms.txt>

Accessed 2012 June 7.

Scope and Content:

The Rotan (Edward and Kate Sturm McCall) Papers, 1850-1931, 1958) were acquired as three separate gifts, two given by Roger N. Conger and one given by William Morrison. The collection includes memoirs and writings of Edward Rotan, speeches, correspondence, newspaper clippings, a cookbook and a ledger book through which can be seen segments of the life histories of the Rotans and their involvement in the Waco community.

Organization and Arrangement:

The collection was previously organized by topic. Multiple inventories and collection descriptions are available in the control file.

The collection is currently organized in five series: I. Literary Productions, II. Correspondence, III. Photographs, IV. News Clippings, and V. Ledger.

Restrictions: The collection is open for research.

Literary Rights Statement:

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Index Terms:

Waco--History.

Texas--History.

Tennessee--History.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Wright's Brigade.

Related Materials: None.

Separated Materials: Black lace and dried flowers were removed from the collection at time of processing. Appropriate separation sheets have been completed.

Custodial History:

Acquisition:	Collection was acquired by gift in three separate transactions in 1973, 1981, and an unknown date.
Citation:	Gift of William Morrison, 1973. Gift of Roger N. Conger, 1981. Gift of Roger N. Conger, undated. Rotan (Edward and Kate Sturm McCall) Papers, 1850-1931, 1958, Accession #1240, Box #, Folder #, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.

Processing Information: Finding aid completed by Chelsea Ferwerda, 2012 June 7.

Container List:

Series I: Literary Productions, 1850-1929, undated, 7 folders.

This series contains memoirs and poetry of Edward Rotan, minutes, notes, and poetry from the "Noname Club," a speech by Kate Rotan, a cookbook, and two speeches. This series is in average to good condition.

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
1	1	Literary Productions: "Notes on the Life of Edward Rotan."	1850-1910
	2	Literary Productions: "John"	undated
	3	Literary Productions: Noname Club	1920, 1923, undated
	4	Literary Productions: Poetry	1899, 1907, 1929, undated
	5	Literary Productions: Genealogy and Speech	1893, undated
	6	Literary Productions: Presbyterian Cookbook	1875
	7	Literary Productions: Speech	1860

Series II: Correspondence, 1897, 1911, 1918-19, 1923, 1931, undated, 1 folder.

This series consists of general letters to and from Edward Rotan. This series is in average to good condition.

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
1	8	Correspondence	1897, 1911, 1918-19, 1923, 1931, undated

Series III: Photographs, undated, 1 folder.

This series contains four photographs, three of Edward Rotan and one of Kate Sturm McCall Rotan. The photographs are in good condition.

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
1	9	Photographs	undated

Series IV: News Clippings, 1902, 1924, 1927-28, 1931, undated, 1 folder.

This series contains clippings about Edward Rotan's life, three about the Rotans' wedding anniversaries, one about a dinner honoring Mrs. Rotan, one with photographs of Mr. Rotan, and one quoting Mr. Rotan on the history of banking in Waco. The items are in average to good condition.

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
1	10	Clippings	1902, 1924, 1927-28, 1931, undated

Series V: Ledger, 1845-1855, 4 folders.

This series contains a ledger from the Annexation Temperance Society, which contains minutes, lists of expenses, and doodles. The papers are in average condition.

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
2	1	Ledger (1 of 4)	1845-1855
	2	Ledger (2 of 4)	1845-1855
	3	Ledger (3 of 4)	1845-1855
	4	Ledger (4 of 4)	1845-1855