The Hannah-Wiley Family papers chronicle Bob's experiences at Baylor before the accident and his family's grief after his death. Also included in the record group are materials related to the life of Bob's parents, Robert Lee Hannah and Mary Jane Hannah, as well as Mary Jane's experiences at Baylor before the accident and his family's grief after his death. Also included in the record group are financial documents, and literary production relating to the family of Robert "Bob" Lee Hannah Jr., who was one of the "Immortal Ten" who died in a tragic bus/train collision.

Administrative/Biographical History

Robert "Bob" Lee Hannah Jr. was one of ten members of the Baylor University basketball team that died in a train/bus collision in 1927. They are known as the "Immortal Ten." The Hannah-Wiley Family papers chronicle Bob's experiences at Baylor before the accident and his family's grief after his death. Also included in the record group are materials related to the life of Bob's parents, Robert Lee Hannah and Mary Jane Hannah, as well as Mary Jane's second husband Edward Homer Wiley.

Bob Hannah was born on 1906 October 6. He graduated from Waco High School in 1924 and entered Baylor the following year. He became a substitute on the Baylor "Cub" basketball team as a freshman, but by his junior year, he was a guard on the varsity team. While Bob was a student at Baylor, his parents moved from Waco, Texas, to St. Louis, Missouri. On 1927 January 22, the Baylor basketball squad was on a bus heading to Austin for a game against the University of Texas. Due to stormy weather, their driver could not see an oncoming train that subsequently hit the bus. Bob Hannah survived the accident but died en-route to the hospital. Nine of his teammates also died in the collision.

Mary Jane Hannah and Robert Lee Hannah remained married until Robert Sr.'s death from pneumonia on 1929 February 19. Shortly thereafter, Mary Jane married Edward Homer Wiley, a bricklayer from Waco, who had been connected to the family for many years. Edward died in the Waco Tornado on 1953 May 11. Mary Jane died on 1963 March 5. All four members of the Hannah-Wiley family are interred at Oakwood Cemetery in Waco.

Related Resources

Related records in other Archive collections

Papers Winchester Family, 1911-1956

Related citations


Archival Arrangement
Prior to this finding aid the majority of the Hannah-Wiley Family papers were organized chronologically by type. Two additional folders of material were roughly organized, with the correspondence placed in a separate folder, but there was no finding aid for these materials.

Currently the Hannah-Wiley Family papers are organized into two series. Series I: Robert "Bob" Lee Hannah Jr., II: Hannah-Wiley Family.

Series 1: Robert "Bob" Lee Hannah Jr. 1924-1927, undated

Administrative/Biographical History
This series includes correspondence, financial documents, and literary productions pertaining to the life and death of Robert "Bob" Lee Hannah Jr., one of the "Immortal Ten." This series is in good condition.

Item List
Box 1. Folder 1. Correspondence: To/From Bob Hannah, 1924-1926 June
Box 1. Folder 2. Correspondence: To/From Bob Hannah, 1926 July 10-16
Box 1. Folder 3. Correspondence: To/From Bob Hannah, 1926 July 29-August 10
Box 1. Folder 4. Correspondence: To/From Bob Hannah, 1926 August 27-December
Box 1. Folder 5. Correspondence: Regarding Bob Hannah’s Death, 1927 January-February
Box 1. Folder 6. Correspondence: Regarding Bob Hannah’s Death, 1927 March
Box 1. Folder 7. Correspondence: Regarding Bob Hannah’s Death, 1927, undated
Box 1. Folder 8. Financial Documents: Regarding Bob Hannah’s Death, 1927
Box 1. Folder 9. Literary Productions: Registration Cards, 1925-1926

Series 2: Hannah-Wiley Family. 1909-1930, undated

Administrative/Biographical History
This series includes correspondence, legal documents, financial documents, and literary productions relating to Mary Jane Hannah Wiley, Robert Lee Hannah Sr., and Edward Homer Wiley. Much of the correspondence is undated and signed with initials or unspecific titles like "sweetheart." Because of this, all envelopes have been retained to help the researcher distinguish the chronology, authors, and recipients of the letters. This series is in average to good condition.

Item List
Box 1. Folder 10. Correspondence: Personal, 1912-1922
Box 1. Folder 11. Correspondence: Personal, 1923
Box 1. Folder 12. Correspondence: Personal, 1924-1926
Box 2. Folder 1. Correspondence: Personal, 1927
Box 2. Folder 2. Correspondence: Personal, 1928
Box 2. Folder 3. Correspondence: Personal, 1929
Box 2. Folder 4. Correspondence: Personal, 1930
Box 2. Folder 5. Correspondence: Personal, undated
Box 2. Folder 6. Financial Documents: General, 1909-1926
Box 2. Folder 7. Financial Documents: General, 1927-1930
Box 2. Folder 8. Legal Documents: General, 1930
Box 2. Folder 9. Literary Productions: Religious Pamphlets, 1921, undated
Box 2. Folder 10. Literary Productions: Postcards, 1927, undated
Box 2. Folder 11. Literary Productions: Patents, 1921
Box 2. Folder 12. Literary Productions: Clippings, 1928-1964, undated
Box 2. Folder 13. Literary Productions: General, 1917-1927, undated