

MARIE CASEY COOK ARCHIVE

1860-2011

FINDING AID



Cedar Falls Historical Society

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Access and Use

The Cedar Falls Historical Society's Library and Archives are open Tuesday-Friday from 10 am to 4 pm. Access is granted by appointment only. Research requests can be submitted via email or by phone.

Collection Overview

Extent: 14 linear feet

19 binders

2 document boxes

2 flat boxes

21 photo albums and scrapbooks

16 ephemera and framed works

Date Span: 1860s-2011

Provenance: The collection was donated to the Cedar Falls Historical Society by Marie Cook before her death in 2011.

Processed by: Brittany Puhmann, July 2016.

Historical Note

Helen Marie Casey Cook was born in Cedar Falls, Iowa in 1918 to John Francis Casey and Erma Ruth Livingston. Marie graduated from the Iowa State Normal School (now the University of Northern Iowa) in 1938. In 1939, she married Herman Bertram Cook, son of Herman Klaas Cook and Mary Ellen Lynch. Marie and Herman adopted two children, Carol Marie and John Joseph, and later had two more children, Gerard Jude and Christine Annette.

Marie came from two families prominent in the history of Cedar Falls. Her father, John Casey, along with his brothers, owned and operated the Casey Blacksmith Shop. Her mother, Ruth Livingston, was the sister of two famous aviators, John Livingston and Aden "Bite" Livingston. The Livingston brothers competed in aerial races as well as barnstorming and stunt flying events. John Livingston's aerial feats were the inspiration for the popular book, *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* by Richard Bach.

Marie was well known for her silhouettes, drawings, and paintings and her works have been avidly collected regionally. Marie entered many of her works into contests all over the state, including the National Cattle Congress, and won dozens of awards and ribbons. Marie was also an active member of the Cedar Falls community. Ever interested in local history, Marie used

her talents to preserve the memory of Cedar Falls and the surrounding communities. Much of her artwork depicts historic buildings and sites, some of which have since been destroyed or significantly altered.

Marie died in 2011.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of the personal papers and artwork of Marie Casey Cook. It documents Marie's personal life, her family history, and her life as an artist in the form of photographs, artwork, manuscripts, correspondence, legal documents, school records, financial records, diaries, yearbooks, newspaper and magazine clippings, awards, and ephemera.

A large portion of the collection is genealogical in nature with original and photocopied supporting material. Marie amassed extensive genealogical material on her family including her and her family's memories of the famous Livingston aviators and, in some cases, traced her family as far back as the 1700s.

The artwork, which makes up another large percentage of the collection, is representative of Marie's preferred styles and methods. The collection includes all phases of her process from sketches and studies to completed works. Of particular interest is the pencil shading found on the back side of many of her drawings, evidence that she traced and imprinted her previous drawings to make duplicates. Also included in the collection are awards and ribbons won by Marie at art fairs and contests as well as Marie's art tools and material, including the briefcase of tools she carried with her for cutting silhouettes at fairs and events. Some of Marie's poetry and prose are also included in the collection.

The collection also contains a number of photo albums, scrapbooks, and photographs documenting Marie's life and that of her family. Additionally, the collection includes photographs of homes, buildings, and other sites which served as inspiration for Marie's artwork.

Organization and Arrangement

The collection is organized chronologically by family and material type:

Genealogical Materials	Binders, Archive, Shelves F1-F2
Photo Albums & Scrapbooks	Archive, Shelves F2-F3
Photo Albums & Scrapbooks	Box, Archive, Shelf F4
Casey Account Books & Diaries	Box, Archive, Shelf F4
Tool Kit	Briefcase, Archive, Shelf F4
Marie's Artist Biography & Inspiration	Binder, Archive, Shelf F5
Loose Photographs	Crate, Archive, Shelf F5
Drawings, Paintings, & Silhouettes	Binders, Archive, Shelf F5;

Awards & Ribbons
Yearbooks
Framed Artwork

Artwork Boxes 1-2, Archive,
Shelves F5-F6
Awards Box 1, Archive, Shelf F6
Library, Shelf D2
Carriage House Basement Storage

Related Materials

Materials related to the Marie Casey Cook Archive at the Cedar Falls Historical Society include silhouettes, paintings, photographs, drawings, membership cards, organization papers, oral history audio tapes, personal papers, yearbooks, scrapbooks, and furniture.

Subjects

Aldrich, Bess Streeter.
Casey Family.
Casey, Donnabelle.
Casey, John.
Cook Family.
Cook, Marie.
Hammerand Family.
Iversen Family.
Iversen, Ruth Arnette Casey
Livingston Family.
Livingston, Anna Katherine Hammerand.
Livingston, Aden Barthold "Bite".
Livingston, Erma Ruth.
Livingston, John Henry.
Livingston, William Worth.
Lynch Family.
Mallery Family.

Barns.
Behrens-Rapp Station.
Casey Blacksmith Shop.
Cedar Falls High School.
Cedar Falls Historical Society.
Cedar Falls Visitor Center.
Cedar Falls Woman's Club.

Dinsdale School Bus.
Fields Barn.
Ice House.
National Cattle Congress.
Regent Theatre.
University of Northern Iowa.
Viking Pump.

Cedar Falls – Artists.
Cedar Falls – Businesses.
Cedar Falls – Churches.
Cedar Falls – Depots.
Cedar Falls – History.
Cedar Falls Houses.
Cedar Falls – Schools.
Iowa – Art Shows.

Correspondence.
Genealogy.

Further Reading

Robinette, J. (Interviewer) & Cook, M. (Interviewee). (June 18, 1999). *Marie Cook* [Interview audio & transcript]. Retrieved from Iowa Women Artists Oral History Project Website: <http://www.lucidplanet.com/iwa/ArtistPages/cookm.php>

Container List

Papers, Personal

Marie's personal papers consist of genealogical material pertaining to each branch of her family including photographs, correspondence, diaries, memoirs, certificates (birth, baptism, and marriage), announcements (birth, engagement, marriage, anniversary, retirement, and death), invitations (wedding, anniversary, commencement, and other special events), programs (church service, wedding, funeral, theater, and other special events), interment records, ticket stubs, legal and financial documents, brochures, newspaper clippings, obituaries, maps, census records, school records, membership and ID cards, business cards, drawings and silhouettes of family members done by Marie Cook, D.A.R. documents, excerpts from genealogical publications, descendent and ancestral charts, and other genealogical documents. Materials have been sleeved and organized into binders chronologically by family beginning with the first known ancestor of each family.

<u>Container</u>	<u>Shelf</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
1 binder	Archive, F1	Hammerand Family Genealogy	n.d.
1 binder	Archive, F1	Mallery Family Genealogy	n.d.
3 binders	Archive, F1	Livingston Family Genealogy	n.d.
2 binders	Archive, F1	Correspondence, Anna Livingston	1884-1935
2 binders	Archive, F1-F2	Casey Family Genealogy	n.d.
1 binder	Archive, F2	Iversen Family Genealogy	n.d.
2 binders	Archive, F2	Lynch Family Genealogy	n.d.
1 binder	Archive, F2	Cook Family Genealogy	n.d.
1 binder	Archive, F2	Herman & Marie Cook Family Genealogy	n.d.
1 binder	Archive, F2	Donnabelle Casey Family Genealogy	n.d.
1 booklet	Archive, F2	Memorial Record of John Francis Casey	1965
1 booklet	Archive, F2	In Memory of Donnabelle A. Casey	2009
Casey box	Archive, F4	Checkbook w/ account book	1926
Library - flat storage	Cabinet C, Drawer 1	Newspaper, <i>Cedar Falls Record</i>	1916
Albums box	Archive, F4	Autographs book	1878
Casey box	Archive, F4	Diary	1919-1920
Casey box	Archive, F4	Diary	c. 1920s
Casey box	Archive, F4	Account book	1924-1925
Casey box	Archive, F4	Account book	n.d.
Cook folder	Series III – CF Families	“Memoirs by Marie Cook”	n.d.

Klean-Kwik folder	Series IV – CF Businesses	Utility bill	1924
Citizens Gas folder	Series IV – CF Businesses	Utility bill	1924
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Book: “101 Stories of Cedar Falls as told by Herb Hake”	1977

Papers, Business

The business papers in the collection pertain to business side of Marie’s work as an artist including signs advertising her work, account and sales records, and contact information for other artists. The business papers in the collection also pertain to the John Casey family and the Casey Blacksmith Shop and include correspondence, invoices, receipts, insurance policies, letterhead, bank statements, tax documents, utility bills, photographs, newspaper clippings, obituaries, descendent and ancestral charts, and other genealogical documents. Materials have been sleeved and organized chronologically.

<u>Container</u>	<u>Shelf</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
1 binder	Archive, F1	Casey Business Documents	1916-1926
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Sign, business	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Sign, business	n.d.
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Account book	1996-2010
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Journal	n.d.
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Journal	1991
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Journal	n.d.
Casey box	Archive, F4	Account book, Casey Blacksmith Shop	1922-1934
Casey Brothers folder	Series IV – CF Businesses	Letterhead, Casey Blacksmith Shop	n.d.

Media

The collection includes two copies of the IPTV program, “Living in Iowa” on DVD. In the program, Marie Cook is interviewed and her work as an artist is discussed.

<u>Container</u>	<u>Shelf</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	“Living in Iowa” DVD	n.d.
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	“Living in Iowa” DVD	n.d.

Photo Albums, Scrapbooks, & Yearbooks

The collection contains yearbooks from Cedar Falls High School as well as a number of photo albums and scrapbooks. The photo albums contain photographs of the daily life, vacations, and special events such as weddings, birthdays, funerals, etc., of the Livingston, Casey, and Cook families. The scrapbooks largely pertain to Marie Cook's life as an artist and contain photographs, correspondence, newspaper articles, programs, advertisements, invitations, ticket stubs, awards, report cards, poetry, notes, drawings, greeting cards (especially Christmas), business cards, stationary, silhouettes, brochures, posters, newsletters, contest entry forms, and invoices.

<u>Container</u>	<u>Shelf</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
----	Library, D2	Cedar Falls High School Yearbook: "Red & Black," Vol. 8	1923
----	Library, D2	Cedar Falls High School Yearbook: "Red & Black," Vol. 12	1927
----	Library, D2	Cedar Falls High School Yearbook: "Red & Black"	1930
----	Library, D2	Cedar Falls High School Yearbook: "Red & Black," Vol. 2	1916
----	Library, D2	Cedar Falls High School Yearbook: "Red & Black"	1940
----	Library, D2	Cedar Falls High School Yearbook: "Red & Black"	1941
1 album	Archive, F3	Livingston family photo album	1976
1 album	Archive, F3	Casey family photo album	1920s-1930s
1 album	Archive, F3	Ruth Casey's 90 th birthday photo album	1985
1 album	Archive, F3	Cook family photo album	1984-1985
1 album	Archive, F3	Cook family photo album	1986-1987
1 album	Archive, F3	Cook family photo album	1954-1983
1 album	Archive, F3	Cook family photo album	1980s
1 album	Archive, F3	Casey family photo album	1925-1969
Albums box	Archive, F4	Livingston family photo album	1917-1920
Albums box	Archive, F4	Livingston family photo album	1920s-1945
Albums box	Archive, F4	Casey family photo album	1918-1945
Albums box	Archive, F4	Casey family photo album	1917-1920
Albums box	Archive, F4	Cook family photo album	1940-1941
1 album	Archive, F3	"Silhouettes, 1993-" scrapbook	1990s
1 album	Archive, F3	Christmas letters scrapbook	1970-2003

1 album	Archive, F3	Marie Cook artist scrapbook	2000s
1 album	Archive, F3	“Paintings, 1987-” scrapbook	1980s
1 album	Archive, F3	Marie Cook scrapbook	n.d.

Artwork

The artwork in the collection includes drawings, paintings, silhouettes, poetry, and prose by Marie Cook as well as a few paintings by her mother, Ruth Casey. The collection also contains examples of Marie’s artwork being used in advertising. Additionally, there are a number of objects related to Marie’s artwork including awards and ribbons won by Marie at various art shows and contests across Iowa as well as Marie’s art tools and materials housed in a briefcase which she carried with her for cutting silhouettes at fairs and events.

<u>Container</u>	<u>Shelf</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
CH Basement Storage	B2	Framed watercolor: Old Presbyterian Church	n.d.
CH Basement Storage	B2	Framed silhouettes: Collage of seven people	n.d.
CH Basement Storage	B2	Framed painting: Covered bridge and early model Ford by Ruth Casey	n.d.
CH Basement Storage	B2	Framed painting: Snow covered cabin by Ruth Casey	n.d.
1 binder	Archive, F5	Silhouettes	n.d.
1 binder	Archive, F5	Drawings and Silhouettes	n.d.
1 binder	Archive, F5	Poetry and Prose / Artist Bio	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Livingston family tree	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Cook family tree	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Silhouette: three boys	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Silhouettes: Collage of five people	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Illinois Central Depot	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Rock Island Depot	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Illinois Central Depot	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Reeves tractor	1966
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Cedar Falls Visitor Center	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Cedar Falls Woman’s Club	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Franklin Street Bridge	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Franklin Street Bridge	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Franklin Street Bridge	n.d.

Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: St. Stephen the Witness Catholic Student Center, University of Northern Iowa	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Calvary Baptist Church	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: St. Patrick's Catholic Church	1940s
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Unidentified church	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Victorian Home, Cedar Falls Historical Society	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Painting: Cedar Falls home, 1009 Main St.	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Cedar Falls home, 821 W 12th St.	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Townsend house	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Sartori house	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Litchfield Mansion (Mandalay)	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Bailey house	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Unidentified barn	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Cedar Falls barn, 4119 S. Main St.	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Unidentified Cedar Falls home	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Cedar Falls Mill	1963
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Downtown Cedar Falls businesses	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Downtown Cedar Falls businesses	1940s
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Cotton Theatre (Oster Regent)	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Oster Regent Theatre	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Downtown Cedar Falls businesses	1972
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Downtown Cedar Falls businesses	1973
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Downtown Cedar Falls businesses	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Downtown Cedar Falls businesses	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Downtown Cedar Falls businesses	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Downtown Cedar Falls businesses	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Downtown Cedar Falls, Parkade Barbers shop	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Downtown Cedar Falls businesses	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Downtown Cedar Falls businesses	1973
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Behrens Rapp Station, Cedar Falls Historical Society	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Maid-Rite Shop	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Viking Pump Corporation	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Fields Brothers' Barn	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Fields Brothers' Barn	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Fields Brothers' Barn	n.d.

Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Fields Brothers' Barn	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Fields Brothers' Barn	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Fields Brothers' Barn	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Fields Brothers' Barn	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Fields Brothers' Barn	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Study for Price Lab School	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Lincoln Elementary School	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Unidentified public school	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Lincoln Elementary School	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Orchard Hill Elementary School	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Cedar Falls High School (Main St.)	1973
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Cedar Heights Elementary School	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Orchard Hill Elementary School	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Humbert Elementary School	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Painting: Matted watercolor, older woman spinning wool into thread	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Silhouettes: Collage of 21 people	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Silhouettes: Collage of 20 people & 1 dog	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Silhouettes: Joe, Jude, and Chris Cook	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Painting: Covered bridge by Ruth Casey	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Painting: A white house by Ruth Casey	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Painting: Double-sided, barns	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Drawing: Downtown Cedar Falls businesses	n.d.
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Painting: Manure spreader	n.d.
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Painting: Plant	n.d.
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Painting: Dandelion	n.d.
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Painting: Unidentifiable scene	n.d.
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Drawing: Double-sided, mailboxes / person	n.d.
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Painting: Double-sided, leaves	n.d.
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Painting: Man's profile	n.d.
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Drawing: Double-sided, mill / motorcycle	n.d.
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Drawing: Double-sided, barn / motorcycle	n.d.
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Painting: Double-sided, unidentified building / ladybugs	n.d.
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Painting: Double-sided, unidentifiable scene / leaves	n.d.
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Painting: Double-sided, unidentifiable scene / ice tongs	n.d.
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Painting: Hay bale and house	n.d.

Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Painting: Double-sided, unidentifiable scene / corn stalks	n.d.
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Painting: Double-sided, barn / corn stalk	n.d.
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Painting: Double-sided, corn stalk / flowers	n.d.
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Painting: Double-sided, barn and silo / subway	n.d.
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Painting: Unidentifiable structure	n.d.
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Painting: Double-sided, cornfields	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Double-sided: silhouettes, collage of 11 people / drawing, rainy scene	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Silhouette: Donnabelle Casey	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Silhouette: Graduate in cap and gown	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Silhouettes: Collage of five people	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Silhouette: Cedar Falls home, 4209 S. Main St.	2003
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Silhouette: Cedar Falls home, 59 River Ridge Rd.	2003
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Silhouette: Cedar Falls home, 1117 Clay St.	2003
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Silhouette: Cedar Falls home, 67 River Ridge Rd.	2003
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Silhouette: Dinsdale School Bus and the Ice House, Cedar Falls Historical Society	n.d.
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Silhouette: Bridge seating rotation card	n.d.
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Silhouette: Bridge seating rotation card	n.d.
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Silhouette: Equestrian competition ad	1976
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Silhouette: Convention booklet cover, Iowa School Food Service Association	1978
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Silhouette: Candy box, Burke's salt water taffy	n.d.
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Silhouette: Candy box, Burke's salt water taffy	n.d.
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Paintings: Black Hawk County Bicentennial Calendar	1976-1977
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Paintings: Black Hawk County Bicentennial Calendar	1976-1977
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Silhouette: Cedar Falls, Iowa Strategy booklet	1995
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Silhouette: Cedar Falls, Iowa Strategy booklet	1995
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Drawing: People's Choice Concert Program, Cedar Falls Municipal Band	2000
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Drawings: Bess Streeter Aldrich Tour of Sites brochure	1996
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Drawing: Invitation to opening, Cedar Falls Visitor Center	n.d.
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Painting: Tourism month event invitation,	2005

		Cedar Falls Visitor Center	
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Painting: Tourism month event invitation, Cedar Falls Visitor Center	2005
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Sketch book	n.d.
1 briefcase	Archive, F4	Tool kit, silhouette cutting	n.d.
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Poster: Ad for Marie Cook art exhibit at the Hearst Center for the Arts	2010
Artwork box 1	Archive, F6	Poster: Ad for Marie Cook art exhibit at the Hearst Center for the Arts	2010
Artwork box 2	Archive, F5	Event portfolio: "Marie Cook: A Cedar Falls Treasure"	2005
Awards box	Archive, F6	Ribbons and awards	1964-2010