A GUIDE TO THE
DODSON FAMILY PAPERS
MS/NC 727
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DODSON FAMILY
The person most prominently represented in this collection is Calvin James Dodson, son of George Julius Dodson and Mary (Mamie) Larson Dodson. Calvin was born in Albany, Oregon on June 15, 1911. Most of his elementary education was received in Klickitat County, Washington. In 1923, his family moved to Nevada and he graduated from the University of Nevada in Reno with a degree in electrical engineering in 1932.

On August 26, 1934, he was married to Ruth A. Murphy of Reno. Dodson was a civil engineer for Sparks, Reno and Washoe County, retiring in 1976. He came to Sparks in 1941, after working as a road engineer for the Indian Service, and as a regional Civilian Conservation Corps inspector for the U. S. Grazing Service. He also retired in 1971 as a lieutenant colonel from the U.S. military, having served in World War II and Korea in addition to many years in the Army Reserve. Calvin Dodson died on November 17, 1996. His wife, Ruth lived until 2006.

Calvin Dodson had two younger brothers, Melvin, born in 1917 and Edwin, born in 1921. Melvin died in a rifle accident in 1940, and Edwin from a heart attack in 1984. Edwin served as a school teacher and principal and he was a professor at the University of Nevada for 17 years before his death

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE COLLECTION
The Dodson family papers consist of a limited amount of correspondence relating to Calvin Dodson and earlier family members dating back to the turn of the twentieth century. Other data include marriage certificates, legal documents, military papers, school records, diaries, and related materials.

Some records pertain to Calvin Dodson’s experience with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the 1930’s, the City of Sparks Public Works, newspaper clippings, printed materials and a scrapbook. Most of the collection consists of photographs of family members, school pictures, and a large accumulation of snapshots from the Pacific during
World War II, when Calvin Dobson was stationed in the Philippines. There
are numerous early Nevada photos from Empire City and other areas
during the 1880’s through the early 1900’s.

Included in the collection is a nineteenth century photo album from the
Murphy family on Calvin Dobson’s mother’s side (see family tree
following this section). Many of the pictures in this album are
unidentified. There are three Dodson albums documenting events
through the 1930’s. Also, there are several panoramic views of CCC
members at Tuscarora, Nevada and military officers at Fort Douglas, Utah
and Harvard at Cambridge, Massachusetts. Other larger photographs
include schoolchildren, an unidentified family portrait and some early
Nevada scenery.

There is a collection of high school and college yearbooks ranging from
1926 through 1942 which belonged to the three Dodson brothers. The
balance of the collection are dozens of oversized maps and drawings
created by Calvin Dodson during his career, including public and private
sites in Sparks and Reno as well as maps and drawings for the U.S.
Department of the Interior during the 1930’s.

DODSON FAMILY TREE
Michael J. Dillon 1831-1905
Mary K. Dillon 1834-?
Elizabeth 1857-1937 — MARRIED James Larson 1855-1936
Anna 1860-?
Patrick 1862 -?
James 1864-?
Edward 1868 -?
Mary (Mollie?) 1871-?
Annie 1881-1922
Florence 1893-?
Irene 1897-?
Mary (Mamie) 1883-1963
MARRIED George J. Dodson 1872-1953
Geo. Murphy 1867-1931
Emma Murphy 1878-1945
Calvin 1911-1996
Melvin 1917-1940
Edwin 1921-1984 Ruth Murphy 1915-2006 MARRIED -
Carol Dodson Chapin 1940 -
I. CORRESPONDENCE & RECORDS
BOX DESCRIPTION
1 Family Correspondence 1900-1920's
2 Family Correspondence 1930's-i 940’s
3 Family Correspondence 1950’s
4 Correspondence, Calvin Dodson 1930’s
5 Correspondence, Calvin Dodson 1940’s
6 Correspondence, Calvin Dodson 1950’s-1990’s
7 Correspondence, Mamie Larson Dodson
8 Legal Documents Folder 1
9 Legal Documents Folder 2
10 Marriage Certificates, George J. Dodson/Mary A. Larson
11 Teacher’s Certificates, Mamie (Larson) Dodson
12 Larson Family Papers
13 Dillon Family Papers
14 Dodson Family Genealogy
15 Diaries, Calvin Dodson 1942-1944
16 Military Records Calvin Dodson
17 Military Records George J. Dodson
18 Education Records Calvin Dodson
19 Diplomas, Geo. Melvin Dodson
20 Grazing Service Camps—CCC (Calvin Dodson)
21 CCC Accident Report
22 CCC Camp Personnel & Offices
23 Certificates & Appointments, Calvin Dodson
24 - 1 Large Cert. of Appointment as Major, U. S. Army (C. Dodson)
25 Inspection Reports, Grazing Service (C. Dodson)
26 City of Sparks, Public Works (CV. Dobson)
27 Plats & Maps, small
28 Field Books numbered I through 5 (Calvin Dobson)

Box 2
1 Empire, NV School Registers 1895-96; 1909-10
2 Printed Materials
3 Miscellaneous
4 Newspaper Clippings
5 Scrapbook

II. PHOTOGRAPHS
6 Picture Postcards
7 Family Photographs, Folder 1
8 Family Photographs, Folder 2
9 Family Photographs, Folder 3
10 Family Photographs, Folder 4
11 Family Photographs, Folder 5
12 Family Photographs, Folder 6
13 School Photographs
14 Photo Negatives
15 Glass Negatives (2)

Box 3
1 Snapshots from Pacific—WWII Folder 1
2 Snapshots from Pacific—WWII Folder 2
3 Early Nevada Photographs, 1880’s-1910’s Folder 1
4 Early Nevada Photographs, 1880’s-1910’s Folder 2
5 Miscellaneous Photographs
6 Photograph Album, Murphy Family
7 Photograph Album, Calvin Dodson 1918-1933
8 Photograph Album, Calvin Dodson 1930’s mostly CCC
8a Negatives from Album #3
9 Photograph Album, Melvin Dodson

5 Large Photographs as follows:
2 --Panoramic view of CCC members at Tuscarora, NV
3 --Panoramic view of CCC camp at Tuscarora, NV (1939)
4 --Panoramic view of Army Officers at Ft. Douglas, UT (1934)
5 --Panoramic view of Army Officers at Harvard, MA (1940’s)
6 --Large Photo of Carson City High School Basketball Team, by Gov. Richard Kirman (late 1930’s)
7 --Family portrait, 7 persons, unidentified
8 --School photo with Mary Larson next to teacher
9 --Photograph of Oregon Agricultural College (OAC) Band
10 --Photo of band on stairs to building
11 --Photo of class at OAC
12 --Freight Teams near Winnemucca
13 --Photograph of unidentified cemetery
14 --Photo of group of adults & children at a party in McDermitt, NV

III. SCHOOL YEAR BOOKS
Box 4
1 Blue & White 1926, Carson City High School
2 Carneta 1928, Carson City High School
3 Carneta 1930, Carson City High School
4 Carneta 1932, Carson City High School
5 Carneta 1934, Carson City High School
6 Carneta 1936, Carson City High School
7 Carneta 1938, Carson City High School
8 Artemesia 1932, University of Nevada (Reno)
9 Artemesia 1938, University of Nevada (Reno)
10 Artemesia 1939, University of Nevada (Reno)
11 Artemesia 1942, University of Nevada (Reno)

Box 5
IV. MAPS & DRAWINGS
(Oversized)
1 Sparks maps & drawings
2 Sparks maps & drawings
3 Sparks maps & drawings
4 Sparks maps & drawings
5 Reno maps & drawings
6 U. S. Government maps & drawings
7 Miscellaneous maps & drawings

V. CERTIFICATES
Box 6 (Oversized box)
8 Diplomas
Mary/Mamie Larson Grammar School 1897
Business College 1907
Life Diploma 1910