

# Alan J. Easterling Collection of the McKnight and Rudolph Journal of 1878 and related materials, 1878-2008

## A Guide

### Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Alan J. Easterling

**Title:** Alan J. Easterling Collection of the McKnight and Rudolph Journal of 1878 and related materials, 1878-2008

**Inclusive Dates:** 1878-2008

**Abstract:** The collection consists of a handwritten account and related materials. The journal was written by 18-year-old Charles Francis Rudolph and his 15-year-old brother Nelson describing their journey from southern Illinois to northern Texas. The account was written in 1878 one year after the journey to Texas.

**Identification:** AR14

**Extent:** 0.24 cubic feet

**Shelf location:** Archivist's office

**Language(s):** Collection is in English.

**Repository:** Tarleton State University, Dick Smith Library, Archives and Special Collections, Stephenville, Texas

### Biographical Note

Alan Easterling is a great-grandson of Nelson Fleming Rudolph (1861-1937) and a great-great nephew of Charles Francis Rudolph (1859-1929). Easterling is a 1990 alumnus of Tarleton State University.

Charles Francis Rudolph was born on February 4, 1859 in Marietta, Ohio. When he was eighteen, he immigrated to Texas with his younger brother Nelson Fleming Rudolph. The two boys traveled with a wagon train from southern Illinois to north Texas in 1877. Charles married May Jerusha McGregor on December 9, 1884; they had six children.

By 1882 Rudolph owned a weekly newspaper, which became a daily three years later. In 1886 he moved with his family to Tascosa, Texas where he established the Tascosa *Pioneer*. He also became involved with the publishing of the Amarillo *Daily Northwest* and the Amarillo *Weekly News*. By 1891 Rudolph discontinued the Tascosa *Pioneer* and moved with his family to Channing, Texas and then Hartley, Texas. In Hartley he started the Harley County *Citizen*.

In 1896 Rudolph moved his family to Sherman County, Texas where he established a ranch which used the C Bar N brand. In addition ranching, Rudolph published the *Sherman County Banner* and served as county clerk. In 1901 he moved his family to Stratford, the county seat for Sherman County.

Rudolph died on June 8, 1929 and was buried in El Reno Cemetery in El Reno, Canadian County, Oklahoma.

### Sources:

*Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed November 8, 2019), memorial page for Charles Francis Rudolph (3 Feb 1859-8 Jun 1929), Find A Grave Memorial no. 33594888, citing El Reno Cemetery, El Reno, Canadian County, Oklahoma, USA; Maintained by The Angel Hunter (contributor 46942255).

*Handbook of Texas Online*, H. Allen Anderson, "RUDOLPH, CHARLES FRANCIS," accessed November 08, 2019, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fru28>.

*Library Online Lounge – Tarleton Libraries*, "Tarleton Thursday: Alum Donates Ancestor's 1870s Texas Emigrant Journey Memoir to Library," accessed April 11, 2017, <http://tarletonlibrary.blogspot.com/2017/03/>.

## **Scope and Contents**

The collection consists of a handwritten account and related materials. The journal was written by 18-year-old Charles Francis Rudolph and his 15-year-old brother Nelson describing their journey from southern Illinois to northern Texas. The account was written in 1878 one year after the journey to Texas as a Christmas gift to two of the Rudolph's sisters, Serena Estella "Stella" Rudolph Dort and Louisa Catherine "Lou" Rudolph Lee. The original manuscript, a photocopy of the manuscript, a photocopy of the photocopy of the manuscript, photographs, and newspaper clippings and other ephemera make up the collection.

## **Organization**

The Alan J. Easterling Collection is organized in four series:

- Series I. Original journal
- Series II. Photocopies of the original journal
- Series III. Ephemera
- Series IV. Photographs

## **Rights and Access**

### **Access Restrictions**

Collection is open for research.

### **Physical Access Restrictions**

The original manuscript is in fragile condition, and photocopies must be used for research. The original manuscript may be viewed only with archivist's approval.

### **Technical Access Restrictions**

None.

### **Publication Rights**

Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

## **Reproduction Note**

Reproductions must be made from surrogates (microfilm, digital scan, photocopy of the original held by Archives/Special Collections, Dick Smith Library, Tarleton State University), when available. Only archives staff may photocopy collection documents.

## **Index Terms**

### **Persons**

Rudolph, Charles Francis, 1859-1929  
Rudolph, Nelson Fleming, 1861-1937

### **Subjects**

Arkansas—Description and travel—1870-1879  
Illinois—Description and travel—1870-1879  
Indian Territory—Description and travel—19<sup>th</sup> Century  
Texas—Description and travel—1870-1879  
Travel narratives  
Travel writing  
Travelogs

### **Places**

Arkansas  
Illinois  
Indian Territory  
Texas

### **Alternate Titles**

An Emigrant Journey through Southeastern Missouri, Arkansas, the Indian Territory and Northern Texas

## **Administrative Information**

### **Provenance**

Donated to the Dick Smith Library at Tarleton State University by Alan J. Easterling on March 1, 2017.

### Preferred Citation

[Title of file or item], Alan J. Easterling Collection of the McKnight and Rudolph Journal of 1878 and related materials, AR14, [Box no.], Folder [no.], Tarleton State University, Dick Smith Library, Archives and Special Collections, Stephenville, Texas.

### Processing Information

Finding aid prepared by Phyllis Kinnison, 2019.

### Note to the Researcher

The original manuscript is in fragile condition, and photocopies must be used for research. The original manuscript may be viewed only with archivist's approval. For more information, contact Librarian/Archivist Phyllis Kinnison at [pkinnison@tarleton.edu](mailto:pkinnison@tarleton.edu).

### Container List

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Series Title and Folder Contents (with dates)</u>
Archivist's Office	1	1	Original photocopy of journal
		2	Copy of original photocopy of journal
		3	Clippings and ephemera
		4	Photographs
		5	Original journal

### Photographs

1. A photograph of a tintype photograph showing (left to right) I.P. Rudolph (1824-1905) and his sons Charles Francis Rudolph (1859-1929) and Nelson Fleming Rudolph (1861-1937), circa 1876-1877. Size: 3.5"X5". I.P. and Charles are wearing dark suits. Nelson is wearing a white jacket. Charles is sitting in the center of the photograph. I.P. is standing to Charles' right with his left arm on Charles' shoulder. Nelson is standing to Charles' left with his right arm on Charles' other shoulder. The tintype was damaged too badly to determine the background in the collection's photograph. Note on back of photograph: "I.P. Rudolph 1824-1905 and sons Charles Francis 1859-1929 Nelson Fleming 1861-1937 From tin-type Probably about 1876 or 77 shortly before boys left Ill. For Tex. - Sept. 1877." Condition: faded.
2. A cabinet card photograph of Charles F. Rudolph and his wife May McGregor Rudolph with their children Roy and Guy, undated. Size: 4.25"X6". The parents are sitting in front of a sod house with white trim. A small, round table covered with a table runner and holding a large book is between them. Charles is wearing a dark three-piece suit while May is wearing a dark dress with a white lace collar. May is holding the infant guy who

is wearing a white gown. Roy is standing at his father's knee and is wearing a dark dress with a large, white collar. Note on back of photograph: "Mr. and Mrs. C.F. Rudolph, Guy and Roy, Tascosa, Tex. in front of adobe house. Charles F. Rudolph, Roy Francis, May McGregor Rudolph holding Guy Herbert." Condition: small tear at center top and worn edge in upper right corner.

3. A cabinet card photograph of Charles F. Rudolph and his wife May McGregor Rudolph with their children, undated. Size: 7"x8.75" The background of the studio photograph shows a display cabinet on the left and a pulled-back curtain revealing a staircase on the right. May is standing on the left with her right hand on Guy Herbert's shoulder and her left hand on Charles' shoulder. Charles is sitting in the center of the photograph with Winifred May standing in front of him and Roy Francis standing to the right of him. All of the family members are wearing dark clothing. Note on back of photograph: "Uncle Charlie Francis Rudolph and family. May McGregor Rudolph, Charlie F. Rudolph, Guy Herbert Rudolph, May Winifred Rudolph, Roy Francis Rudolph." Note on label attached to back: "Charles Francis Rudolph wife May McGregor Rudolph children L to R Guy Herbert, Winifred May, Roy Francis." Condition: Fair (photograph worn around the edges, upper right and lower left corners missing, minor water damage, tears).