Guide to the Carr Family Collection, 1870-1936

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Carr Family Collection,
Date (inclusive): 1870-1936
Origination: Carr Family
Extent: 1 Box
Repository: Pasadena Museum of History
Pasadena, California 91103-3594
Language: English.

Access
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Biographical Note
After a career in academics, Dr. Ezra Slocum Carr (1819-1894) was elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of California in 1875 or 76. His wife, Jeanne C. Carr (-1903) was Assistant Superintendent of Education and a writer. They had two surviving children: Edward C. (1848-1929) and Albert Lee (1857-1937).

In 1880, the Carrs retired to Pasadena with the intention of raising orange and fruit groves on their property, named Carmelita. Carmelita stretched from Orange Grove to Fair Oaks along Colorado Boulevard (the present day site of the Norton Simon Museum). Jeanne Carr is credited with being the first person to package and market oranges for shipment to the East and Europe. However, while their orchard flourished the Carrs' financial venture failed. So to capitalize on
Pasadena's growing tourist trade, the Carrs built a boarding house, which was said by historians to have been the cultural center of all Southern California during the 1880s. Ralph Waldo Emerson, John Muir, William Keith, the artist, and Helen Modjeska, the Polish opera singer, were among those who stayed with the Carrs. Supposedly, Helen Hunt Jackson wrote part of her famous novel, *Ramona* in a cabin on the grounds of Carmelita.

Financial problems forced the Carrs to sell the house and property to Mr. and Mrs. Simon Reed (founders of Reed College in Oregon) in 1892.

*Helen Gilloon, 1977*

**Scope and Content**

The Carr Family Collection (1870 - 1936) includes family papers, legal papers (including deed for Carmelita), correspondence, sketches, photographs, *Trail of Yesterday* transcript (by A.L. Carr) with paste-up of illustrations and some original photographs.

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A.L. Carr scrapbook

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Carr Collection notes, folders, etc.