

An Inventory of the Papers of  
**The Nesmith-Evans-Bane Families**

Collection Number 33

A holding of the  
Library of the Colorado Historical Society  
Denver, CO 80203

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### **Biographical Information**

John Wellington Nesmith and his family were proud members of a lineage that could trace its roots to pre-American Revolutionary times.

John W. Nesmith was born in Ohio in 1834. As a boy, he learned the machinist's trade in Pittsfield, Illinois. He moved to St. Louis as a young man and, while there, he was asked to come to Colorado and to erect a mill in what is now Gilpin County.

In February 1861, Nesmith moved to Denver and began working in the small Langford & Company machine shop and foundry. In the fall of 1862, the shop was moved to Blackhawk, in Gilpin County, and in 1864, Nesmith was made superintendent of the company. Nesmith resigned in 1869, to enter the milling business.

Around 1874, he worked as a locomotive engineer, during the construction of the Colorado Central Railroad. He became a master mechanic when the line was completed to Blackhawk, and master of transportation at the railroad's headquarters in Golden the following year.

Around 1876, Nesmith was made master mechanic of the upper division of the Kansas Pacific Railroad. In 1878, he was appointed superintendent of the South Park Railroad by Territorial Governor John Evans. He worked at that position for a year, until he resigned to become superintendent of the Colorado Iron Works (established by Langford & Co.), which had just moved back to Denver.

In 1886, Nesmith assumed the presidency of the company; his daughter Isabel was his secretary, and John H. Morcom was superintendent. In 1896, the company was reincorporated with the same three people holding the same positions. Samuel Hubert Nesmith, John Nesmith's younger brother, served as

assistant superintendent. Five-eighths of the new stock was controlled by John W. Nesmith, two-eighths by Isabel Nesmith Evans, and one-eighth by John Morcom.

At the death of J. W. Nesmith in 1909, his daughters Isabel and Eleanor owned the controlling interest in the company, and T.A. Dickson became manager of the company.

In 1891, Isabel Nesmith married James Porter Evans, vice president and superintendent of the Colorado Iron Works. She was a popular and widely known society matron. She died in 1938.

James and Isabel Evans' daughter, Elisebeth, was born in Denver on January 28, 1895. She attended Wolcott School, eastern boarding schools, Colorado College and the University of Denver. She married Dr. William C. Bane in 1919. She was a charter member of the Junior League of Denver and a fifty-year member of the Colorado Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She died in 1976 and was survived by her husband and four children.

## **Scope and Contents**

The Nesmith, Evans and Bane families were prominent figures in Denver. The collection spans much of the history of the families and contains documents tracing their family tree. The collection series include:

Correspondence, Nesmith-Evans Family (1864-1920)

Correspondence, Bane Family (1920-1940)

Genealogical Data, Evans Family (1782-1927)

Genealogical Data, Nesmith Family (1785-1935)

Elisebeth Evans and Isabel Bane Material (1908-1938)

Isabel N. Evans Material (1891-1938)

James P. Evans Material (1890-1918)

John W. Nesmith Material (1875-1895)

Obituaries (1909-1938)

Colorado Iron Works Material (1888-1914)

Wellington Lake & Reservoir Company Material (1890-1921)

Scrapbooks and Oversized Materials (1809-1944)

The provenance of the collection is unknown. There are no other known repositories of Nesmith-Evans-Bane Family material.

## Collection Contents

### Correspondence: Nesmith-Evans Family (1864-1920)

FF	Description	Date
1	Letter to W. Nesmith from R.L. Davis	5-13-1864
	Letter to [unknown] from R. L. Davis	4-23-1870
	Letter to Isabel Nesmith from J.P. Evans	3-18-1889
	Letter to Isabel Nesmith from A.W. Pearly?	7-20-1890
	Letter to Isabel Nesmith from P. Simmert, in German	8-22-1890
	Letter to [unknown] from Daisy Pearl	12-30-1890
2	Letter to Isabel Nesmith from J.B. Nesmith	7-20-1891
	Letter to Isabel Nesmith from J.B. Nesmith	7-20-1891
	Letter to Isabel Nesmith from J.P. Evans	7-31-1891
	Letter to Isabel Nesmith from "Grandma," Elizabeth D. Nesmith	9-30-1891
	Letter to "Mr. Nesmith" from W. Nesmith	10-29-1891
3	Letter to Isabel Nesmith from H.N. Greely	3-4-1894
	Letter to J.W. Nesmith from L.S. Nesmith	8-18-1894
	Wedding invitation to Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Evans from H. McDowell	12-29-1894
	Letter to Elizabeth N. Evans from J.N. Steele	5-17-1895
	Letter to Mr. Nesmith from Leonora S.P. Nesmith	4-15-1896
	Letter to Isabel Nesmith from H.N. Greely	4-9-1896
	Wedding invitation to Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Evans from J.N. Steele	5-3-1898
4	Letter to J.W. Nesmith from Leonora Nesmith	12-7-1898
	Letter to J.W. Nesmith from L. Nesmith	3-27-1901
	Letter to Isabel N. Evans from L. Nesmith	4-19-1901
	Card to Isabel N. Evans from [unknown]	1-6-1902
	Letter to W.D. Pierce from J.P. Evans	11-3-1902
5	Letter to Edwin Trench from [unknown]	3-24-1904
	Letter to Isabel N. Evans from the Daughters of the American Revolution	12-29-1904
	Letter to the War Department from Isabel N. Evans	1-30-1905

	Letter to Isabel N. Evans from Ruth B. Steele	3-29-1905
	Letter to I.N. Evans from the War Department	4-11-1905
	Letter to I.N. Evans from M.G. Bradley	4-15-1905
	Letter to I.N. Evans from S.H. Putnam	4-26-1906
	Letter to I.N. Evans from M.G. Bradley	5-23-1905
	Card to I.N. Evans from the Daughters of the American Revolution	6-20-1905
6	Letter to I.N. Evans from M.G. Bradley	2-14-1906
	Letter to I.N. Evans from H.N. Greely	2-18-1906
	Letter to I.N. Evans from M.G. Bradley	2-20-1906
	Letter to I.N. Evans from M.G. Bradley	3-31-1906
7	Letter to Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Nesmith from Elisebeth N. Evans	10-3-1906
	Letter to J.P. Evans from Isabel Evans	4-5-1907
	Letter to "Grandma" (Elizabeth D. Nesmith) from Elisebeth N. Evans	4-12-1907
	Letter to E.D. Nesmith from E.N. Evans	Apr. 1907
	Letter to E.D. Nesmith from E.N. Evans	6-3-1907
	Letter to E.D. Nesmith from E.N. Evans	5-25-1907
	Letter to J.P. Evans from E.N. Evans	6-23-1907
	Letter to J.P. Evans from E.N. Evans	6-30-1907
	Letter to J.P. Evans from E.N. Evans	7-18-1907
	Letter to "Family" from E.N. Evans	7-26-1907
	Letter to E.D. Nesmith from E.N. Evans	8-8-1907
8	Letter to E.N. Evans from "Grandpa," J.W. Nesmith	3-29-1908
	Letter to E.D. Nesmith from Reiji Kanda	1-15-1910
	Letter to Mr. and Mrs. McFarland from Reiji Kanda	1-15-1910
	Thank-You note to Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Evans from the Colorado Museum of Natural History	1-9-1911
	Letter to I.N. Evans from A.L. Waters	9-15-1914
	Wedding announcement to I.N. Evans from Major General A.W. Greely	9-2-1919
	Letter to I.N. Evans from A.W. Greely	10-20-1919
	Letter to I.N. Evans from "Marie"	11-28-1919
	Letter to I.N. Evans from W.N. Beggs of the State Historical and Natural History Society	7-21-1920

Correspondence: Bane Family (1920-1940)

9	Letter to I.N. Evans from Elisebeth E. Bane	10-14-1920
	Letter to I.N. Evans from William M. Bane	10-7-1921
	Letter to Dr. Bane from Elisebeth E. Bane	1-21-1923
	Letter to Dr. Bane from E.E. Bane	1-28-1923
	Letter to W.C. Bane from E.E. Bane	2-21-1923
	Letter to W.C. Band from E.E. Bane	10-23-1923
	Letter to E.E. Band from the Daughters of the American Revolution	4-1-1926
10	Letter to I.N. Evans from Eleanor McFarland	3-14-1932
	Letter to I.N. Evans from Isabel Bane	5-15-1932
	Letter to E.E. Bane from E. McFarland	2-17-1934
	Letter to E.E. Bane from E. McFarland	[1934]
	Letter to I.N. Evans from E.E. Bane	9-8-1934
	Letter to E.E. Bane from "Billie"	9-8-1934
	Postcard to I.N. Evans from Janet Bane	9-10-1934
	Postcard to I.N. Evans from Marilyn Bane	9-10-1934
	Letter to I.N. Evans from E.E. Bane	9-11-1934
	Postcard to I.N. Evans from [unknown]	9-12-1934
11	Letter to E.E. Bane from I.N. Evans	12-26-1935
	Letter to I.N. Evans from W.W. Wilmore, Dahlia Farm and Nursery	7-20-1936
	Letter to E.E. Bane from "Martin"	10-27-1936
	Postcard to E.E. Bane from I.N. Evans	8-24-1937
	Postcard to E.E. Bane from I.N. Evans	8-25-1937
	Postcard to E.E. Bane from I.N. Evans	8-30-1937
	Postcard to E.E. Bane from I.N. Evans	9-2-1937
	Postcard to Isabel N. Bane from I.N. Evans	9-3-1937
	Postcard to E.E. Bane from I.N. Evans	9-4-1937
	Postcard to [unknown] from I.N. Evans	9-6-1937
	Postcard to [unknown] from I.N. Evans	9-6-1937
	Postcard to [unknown] from I.N. Evans	Sept. 1937
	Postcard to [unknown] from I.N. Evans	undated
12	Telegram to E.E. Bane from I.N. Evans	9-11-1937
	Telegram to E.E. Bane from I.N. Evans	9-17-1937
	Letter to E.E. Bane from Leo L. Davis, M.D.	2-19-1940



Genealogical Data: Evans Family (1782-1927)

13	Letter to James Trench from John Colston	12-26-1782
	Contract of Apprenticeship of J. Trench to Henry Taylor	undated
	Contract of Indenture of J. Trench to Henry Taylor	8-9-1873
	Letter of recommendation for J. Trench from James Small	9-5-1801
	Journal of travels	[1801]
	Letter of travels	3-20-1802
14	Letter to James Trench from Helen Watson	12-26-1802
	Letter to Thomas Trotter from [unknown]	5-10-1804
	Letter to J. Trench from Thomas Plate, with transcript	3-3-1806
	Letter to David Kaslo from J. Trench, with transcript	[1806]
	Marriage certificate of Thomas Evans and Martha Trench	12-31-1851
	Preamble and Resolutions of the Lackawanna Lodge	July 1866
15	Cemetery plot contract	8-28-1866
	Cancelled check from Martha T. Evans	12-18-1866
	Insurance policy from Aetna Insurance Co.	7-18-1870
	Letter to Martha Trench from James Trench, Jr.	11-13-1879
	Letter to Martha Trench from James Trench, Jr.	4-2-1882
	Letter to Elisebeth Evans Bane regarding the will of Marie C. Lewis	11-18-1924
	Letter to Ruth Walker from I.L. Pierce	9-30-1927
	Family history book	undated
	Family tree	undated
	Two business cards of J.P. Evans	undated
16	Autograph book of Martha Trench	1840-1855

Genealogical data: Nesmith Family (1875-1935)

17	Contract of Indenture of W. Brown	6-27-1785
	Map and Statement of Ownership of W. Brown	
	5-6-1796 Land contract of W. Brown	1-9-1799

18	Book entitled <u>The History of Londonderry</u> , by the Rev. Edward L. Parker	1851
19	Magazine entitled <u>Harper's Franklin Square Library</u> , containing the autobiography of James Nasmyth	2-3-1883
20	Narrative Pedigree of Naesmyth, Nasmyth or Nesmyth	1892
	Naesmith or Nesmith Family in the Peerage of Great Britain	1892
	Rev. James Naismith, biography	1892
	Explanation of the Nesmith coat of arms	1892
	"Heraldry: Origin, Object and Language	undated
21	Photograph of Mary Nesmith, Great Aunt of Elisebeth E. Bane	5-15-1866
	Negative of the Naesmyth coat of arms	1935
	Print of David Nasmith	undated
22	Genealogical data, including family trees and background information	undated
23	Nesmith family background information	undated
<u>Elisebeth Evans and Isabel Bane Material (1908-1938)</u>		
24	Blanchard Auto Directory of Denver	1908
	Fraternity announcement of Elisebeth N. Evans	4-15-1916
	<u>Denver Post</u> clipping regarding auto trip to Grand Lake	8-15-1916
	Junior League membership card of Elisebeth N. Evans	3-1-1918
	Wedding announcement of Elisebeth N. Evans and Dr. William Mathews Bane	10-8-1919
	List of wedding gifts	[1919]
25	"Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp" program, starring Elisebeth Bane	2-19-1932
	Place cards for the 51 <sup>st</sup> anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. W.C. Bane, with transcript of poems written of place cards	10-19-1933
	Poem by Barbara Bane	2-25-1934
	Graduation program of Isabel N. Bane	6-8-1938

26	Graduation invitation of Isabel N. Bane	8-6-1938
	Graduation invitation of Barbara L. Bane	undated
	Poem by Barbara Bane for E.E. Bane	undated
	Birthday card	undated
	Three untitled works of literature by W.M. Bane	undated
	Letterhead of Dr. W.C. Bane and Dr. W.M. Bane	undated
	Booster stamps for Denver	undated
	Miscellaneous magazine clippings	undated
	Poem by W.M. Bane	undated

Isabel N. Evans Material (1891-1938)

27	Wedding guest list and gift list	1891
28	Social engagement book	1891-1907
	Social engagement book	1891-1914
	Social engagement notes	1899-1911
29	Investment book	1905-1938
30	Miscellaneous newspaper clippings	undated

James P. Evans Material (1890-1918)

31	Personal material:	
	Will of J.P. Evans	3-4-1904
	Speech regarding equal rights	undated
32	Financial material:	
	The Old Reliable Mining and Reducing Company stock certificate	1-23-1888
	Photocopy of The Aspen Economic Gas Light Company stock certificate	1-25-1890
	Bill from Howard S. Bailey, Patent Solicitor	11-2-1896
	Bill from A.S. Bosquit to A.F. Trench	1-11-1905
	Two receipts	1-20-1905
	Receipt	undated
	Bill from H. Enfiajian	10-7-1918
	Notice of Location for a quartz mine	2-8-1912

- 33 Miscellaneous material:
- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Patent of photographic camera created by John M. Morcom and J.P. Evans | 3-15-1898 |
| Directory of members of First Congregational Church                    | 1914      |
| Two business cards of J.P. Evans                                       | undated   |
| Envelope containing monogram designs                                   | undated   |

John W. Nesmith Material (1875-1895)

- 34 Personal material:
- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| Biography outline of J.W. Nesmith                | undated |
| Portrait and biographical record of J.W. Nesmith | undated |

- 35 Miscellaneous material:
- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Patent of J.W. Nesmith's "Spark-Arrester" Improvement  | 11-9-1875 |
| Explanation of the "Nesmith Smoke Stack"   | 1875      |
| Appointment of J.W. Nesmith as commissioner to represent Colorado at the Exposition of Industries and Fine Arts in Mexico City | 6-17-1895 |

Obituaries (1909-1938)

- 36 Obituary of J.W. Nesmith from the Denver Post 12-7-1909  
 Obituary of J.P. Evans from the Mining and Engineering World 9-26-1914  
 Obituary of W.C. Bane from the Denver Post 1-20-1937  
 Obituary of Isabel N. Evans 9-3-1938

Colorado Iron Works Material (1888-1914)

- 37 Profit-sharing flyer 4-9-1888  
 Letter to Isabel N. Evans from A.L. Waters 10-13-1910  
 Letter to I.N. Evans from [unknown] 10-15-1910  
 Letter to Eleanor McFarland from I.N. Evans 11-10-1910  
 Letter to I.N. Evans from E. McFarland 11-11-1910  
 Receipt from A. L. Waters 12-19-1910  
 Distribution of the estate of J.W. Nesmith, owner of the Colorado Iron Works 4-6-1914

Wellington Lake & Reservoir Company Material (1890-1921)

38	Board of Directors meeting record book	1890-1921
39	Stock ledger	1892-1907
40	Pooled stock ledger	1892-1901
41	Pages from a record book	1901-1909
42	Loose papers, including division of stockholders and company seal	[1891]

Scrapbooks and Oversized Material (1809-1944)

43	Scrapbook containing newspaper clippings regarding family, business and stories of interest of Elisebeth E. Bane	1876-1914
44	Scrapbook containing family papers	1809-1895
45	Wellington Lake & Reservoir Company stock certificate book	1891-1902
46	Wellington Lake & Reservoir Company stock certificate book	1902-1915
47	Guest register of the Silver Spruce Ranch	1910-1944
48	Scrapbook containing scenes of houses and parks in Denver	1910-1915