

Stewart Bell Jr. Archives
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Robert Clark Nail Collection
Collection Number: 284 THL

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS: Collection is open to all researchers.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING REPRODUCTION AND USE: Restrictions may apply concerning the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a member of the archives staff for information concerning these restrictions. The user assumes all responsibility for identifying and satisfying any claimants of copyright. Some materials may require special handling.

PROCESSING INFORMATION: Processed by Lorna M. Loring. Last updated May 21, 2025.

ACCESSION NUMBER(S): 2001.003 THL; 2006.004 THL; 2024.032 THL

EXTENT: 0.21 linear feet

DATE: 1848-1950

EXISTENCE AND LOCATION OF COPIES: Photographs in this collection have been digitized and are available to view online through the Past Perfect online database: <http://handley.pastperfectonline.com/>

SCOPE AND CONTENT: This collection mainly consists of family photographs of the Nail, Pingley, and Cather families of Frederick County, Virginia. There are also genealogical and military records of John Perry Nail (1905-1980).

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL: John Walter Nail (1854-1938) was born in New Jersey to German immigrant parents with the last name "Nagel." Nail settled in the Shenandoah Valley after the Civil War, marrying Julia V. Pingley and eventually opening a dry goods store at 141 N. Loudoun St. called "The New York Racket." Nail was also a wood carver and folk artist, and it is for this that he is most well-known. They had three children, John Walter Nail, Maybel Virginia (Nail) Aikin and Frederick Grady Nail.

IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Gift of Robert Clark Nail

CONTAINER LIST:

BOX 1

Nail, John Perry, Records,

PHOTOGRAPHS

284-001 THL Annie Purcell Foreman, c. 1880s

284-002 THL Clark and Bertha Purcell, c. 1900

284-003 THL Adaline and Sidney S. Cather, c. 1848

284-004 THL John Purcell, c. 1849
284-005 THL John Perry Purcell, Jr., est. late 19th century.
284-006 THL Dr. and Mrs. Janney with dog, est., early 20th century
284-007 THL Carrie, Blanche, and Grosvenor P. Cather, est. late 1880s
284-008 THL Clark H. Purcell, est. 1890s
284-009 THL Nail family at 141 N Loudoun, est. 1900
284-010 THL John Perry Nail, US Army, WWII, c. 1944
284-011 THL John Perry Nail, US Army, WWII, c. 1944
284-012 THL Hogue Creek Service Station, est. 1950s