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**Manuscript Group 209
Helene Smith Collection**

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Last Modified September 2, 2015**

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Manuscript Group 209

Helene Smith Collection; Manuscript Group 209
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2 Boxes; 2 Linear Feet

Biographical Note

Helene Catherine Snyder Smith (born February 6, 1935) is the daughter of John Bowie Snyder and his wife Frances Cecilia Arthur Snyder from Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. She married Wayne E. Smith on June 8, 1958, and they had five children. She graduated from Westminster College in Westminster, Pennsylvania in 1958. Helene Smith was an amateur archaeologist, and is a published historian, freelance writer, novelist, playwright, and illustrator who has written extensively about Western Pennsylvania including *A Guidebook to Historic Western Pennsylvania*, *Sallie Civil War Dog*, *Great Whisky Rebellion*, and *Tavern Signs of America*. [Helene Smith](#) is also owner and president of [McDonald & Swärd Publishing Company](#) in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains biographical information, newspaper articles, scrapbooks, and drafts of several publications by Helene Smith, and works by George Swetnam ([Manuscript Group 5](#)) which were published by McDonald/Swärd Publishing Company. The focus of her research has been Western Pennsylvania including *Tavern Signs of America – A Catalog* (1988) and *Tavern Signs of America – A History* (1989).

Provenance

This collection was donated by Helene Smith in 2015.

Restrictions

None, this collection is open for research. Property rights reside with Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), and the IUP Special Collections and University Archives. Literary rights are retained by the creators of the records and their heirs. For permissions to reproduce or publish, please contact the [Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist](#).

Processor

The collection was organized and the finding aid was updated by Harrison Wick on September 2, 2015.

Content List

Box 1 Scrapbooks and Publications (17 Folders)

1. Biographical Information
2. Memoirs by Helene Smith: Life from Grade School to 80 years old (1)
3. Memoirs by Helene Smith (2)
4. Memoirs by Helene Smith (3)
5. Helene Smith Scrapbook 1 (1)
6. Helene Smith Scrapbook 1 (2)

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7. Helene Smith Scrapbook 2
8. Helene Smith Scrapbook 3
9. Helene Smith Scrapbook 4 (1) and memorabilia from Wayne Smith
10. Helene Smith Scrapbook 4 (2) and memorabilia from Wayne Smith
11. Helene Smith Publications:
 - a. Play (1976): The Murrysville Borough Bicentennial Drama Committee presents *Wellspring of Power*, 1976, written by Helene Smith
 - b. Play (1984): *Carry a Nation: One Woman's War on Drugs: One Woman Drama* for reading or for the stage, written by Helene Smith, and edited by George Swetnam
 - c. *Rings, Springs, and Thingamajigs* (1990), published by McDonald/Swärd Publishing Company (Children's Coloring Book, 2 copies)
 - d. *Winterhawk Whispers: A Voice for all three Tribes*, Volume 3, Issue 2, January 1997, Helene Smith served as consultant for magazine
12. Helene Smith Publication: Tobacco (1) research paper draft
13. Helene Smith Publication: Tobacco (2) research paper draft
14. Helene Smith Publication: Tobacco (3) research paper draft
15. Helene Smith Publication: *The Great Whisky Rebellion: Rebels with a cause* (1994)
16. Helene Smith Publication: *Tavern Signs of America* – Photographs used in publication (1)
17. Helene Smith Publication: *Tavern Signs of America* – Photographs used in publication (2)

Box 2 Publications by Helene Smith and George Swetnam, see [Manuscript Group 5](#) (11 Folders)

1. Helene Smith Publication: *Tavern Signs of America: Catalog* (1988) by Helene Smith, drafts and published version
2. Helene Smith Publication: *Tavern Signs of America: A history of American inns and public houses through the derivation of the names on their signs* (1989) by Helen Smith, first draft (1)
3. Helene Smith Publication: *Tavern Signs of America: A history of American inns and public houses through the derivation of the names on their signs* (1989) by Helen Smith, first draft (2)
4. Helene Smith Publication: *Tavern Signs of America: A history of American inns and public houses through the derivation of the names on their signs* (1989) by Helen Smith, second draft

Publications written by Dr. George Francis Swetnam (see also [Manuscript Group 5](#))

5. *Devils, Ghosts, and Witches: Occult Folklore of the Upper Ohio Valley* by George Swetnam, printed and edited by Helene Smith (draft)
6. *A Newsman's Life* by George Swetnam (draft)
7. Biographies about George Swetnam and the Swetnam Family
 - a. *A Journey of Remembrance* by Walter Swetnam, George Swetnam's brother (draft)
 - b. *George: The little known historian* (1996) by Dolli Dudrick
8. George Francis Swetnam: A Biographical Note (1)
9. George Francis Swetnam: A Biographical Note (2)
10. Doctoral Dissertation: *Fire beneath our feet: Shays' rebellion and its constitutional impact* by Rock Brynner, Columbia University, PhD Dissertation, third draft, sent to Helene Smith (1)
11. Doctoral Dissertation: *Fire beneath our feet: Shays' rebellion and its constitutional impact* by Rock Brynner, Columbia University, PhD Dissertation, third draft, sent to Helene Smith (2)

Books cataloged and placed in the Pennsylvania Collection (Special Collections)

1. Smith, Helene. (1992-1993). *Apsaalooka: The Crow Nation then and now: Children of a Large Beaked Bird*. Greensburg, PA: McDonald/Swärd Publishing Company.
Call Number: E99 .C92 S65 1993
2. Smith, Helene. (1980). *Getting down to Earth: The story of the Hanna's Town dig*. Greensburg, PA: Westmoreland County Historical Society.
Call Number: F159 .H18 S62 1980
3. Smith, Helene. (1996). *Sallie: Civil War Dog, 1861-1865, a fresh look at the war between the North and the South through the life story of a beloved, heroic mascot of the 11th Pennsylvania Regiment*. Greensburg, PA: McDonald/Swärd Publishing Company.
Call Number: PS3569 .M53733 O8 1996
4. Smith, Helene. (1994). *The Great Whisky Rebellion: Rebels with a cause: An anthology and Guide to Whisky Rebellion Sites*. Greensburg, PA: McDonald/Swärd Publishing Company.
Call Number: E315 .S65 1994
5. Swetnam, George. (1988). *Devils, ghosts, and witches: Occult folklore of the Upper Ohio Valley: an anthology*. Greensburg, PA: McDonald/Swärd Publishing Company.
Call Number: GR 110 .O48 S94 1988 (Special Collections)
6. Swetnam, George. (1990). *The Governors of Pennsylvania, 1790-1990*. Greensburg, PA: McDonald/Swärd Publishing Company. Helene Smith, illustrator.
Call Number: F148 .S94 1990 (Special Collections)