

Louise Kennedy Collection

MS- 281

Processed by: Jennifer Baum

Introduction

The Louise Kennedy Collection was deposited in the Wright State University Special Collections and Archive in February 1979. This collection is part of a larger collection of the papers of Katherine Kennedy Brown, the daughter of Louise Kennedy. The papers were donated by Grafton S. Kennedy, Jr., a nephew of Katherine Kennedy Brown. The collection dates from roughly 1870-1947 and fills three Hollinger Boxes and 19 File folders. It is arranged into eight series and 16 subseries.

There is a restriction on the publication or quotation of any material in these papers without permission of the family.

Biography

Louise Achey Kennedy (1860-1945) was the only child of John Jacob Achey (1830-1934). She was a charter member of the Jonathan Dayton Chapter of the DAR and a genealogical researcher. She married Grafton Claggett Kennedy (1859-1909) an attorney in the Dayton law firm of Kennedy, Munger, and Kennedy. (The other partners were his half-brother, Eugene and Warren and Harry Munger.) Grafton was a staunch Republican, who in 1882 organized the first Montgomery County Board of Elections.

The Kennedy's had two children Katherine Louise Kennedy Brown (1891-1988) (see MS-146) and Grafton Sherwood "Duke" Kennedy (b.1893). The family home was a mansion called "Duncarrick" (Home of the Kennedy's) located at Keowee and Webster streets. The Kennedy's were prominent in Dayton Society from the late 19th century well into the 20th century. Their friends included the Winters, Wrights, Barneys and Pattersons. As a wealthy and prominent family, the Kennedy's traveled extensively in Europe and spent their summers in Nantucket, Massachusetts.

On December 1, 1918 Grafton Sherwood "Duke" Kennedy married Lucille Glidden (b.1891) of Brooklyn, New York. They had three children Katherine "Kay" Kennedy Barney (b.1919), Frances Lucille "Lou" Kennedy Sharp (later Albert) (b.1922), and Grafton Sherwood Jr. "Terry" (b.1926).

On April 20, 1921 Katherine married Kleon Thaw Brown (b.1886) the son of Reverend William Kennedy Brown (1834-1915) and Martha Haight McClellan (1838-1916) a prominent figure in the late 19th century American Temperance movement, (MS-147 contains the papers of Martha McClellan and Reverend William Kennedy Brown). Kleon was the youngest of six children. Following his father's death in 1915 his mother lived with him till her death in 1916.

Kleon was manager of ST&GA Gebhart Company of Cleveland from 1914-1919. In 1920, he became an executive in the sales department of NCR Corporation. Tragically, Katherine's marital happiness ended when the couple's only child died in infancy, then Kleon died suddenly on May 20, 1925. Katherine never remarried and moved back to Duncarrick to live with her mother. Katherine became involved in Politics and Dayton Society for over fifty years. Louise Kennedy's mother also spent time at the mansion after the death of her husband.

Scope and Content

Series I: Postcards

This series contains Postcard Correspondence from friends and family around the world. The postcards are addressed to four different people, Mrs. Grafton C. Kennedy, Mrs. Frances L. Achey, Mrs. Kleon Thaw Brown (Katherine Kennedy Brown) and one postcard addressed to Mr. Sherwood Kennedy. Also in this series is a file folder of Unused postcards. One is a Wright Brothers flight.

Series II: Family

This series contains a Telegraph for Katherine Kennedy Brown, as well as a number of items with family names on them such as programs from Reverend Brown's funeral, a business card, and a telegrams card. Other items in the folder are items from Nantucket and booklets from the Rotary Club.

Series III: Martha McClellan Brown

This series contains two folders for Martha McClellan Brown. The information regards her last trip to Europe and her last public speech in 1911. During this trip she was about the Lusitania and some of her effects are from this part of her voyage. Still involved in World Affairs in 1914, she received Peace Council information. The second file consists of Society news and playbills from different theaters.

Series IV: Travel Souvenirs

This series consists of items collected by the family from visits to places all over the United States and the world. Maps and local histories as well as local tour guide books.

Series V: Religion

Series five contains church bulletins and pamphlets. The Westminster Presbyterian Church booklets date in the 1920's (these are not a complete set).

Series VI: Ephemera

This series is a group of miscellaneous objects of ephemera from the late 1880's to the early 1900's

Series VII: Politics

This series is the smallest consisting of only a couple G.O.P. advertisements and one invitation to a G.O.P function.

Series VIII: Photographs

This is the largest series covering two Hollinger Boxes and containing a wide variety of objects. Photographs contained in this series are a tintype, cabinet cards, glassplate negatives; some are identified but most are not. One glass plate negative is an early Wright Brothers flight photograph (print made by the staff of the Special Collections and Archives)

Box and File Listing

Series I : Postcards

Box	1	File	1	14 Postcards addressed to Mrs. Grafton C. Kennedy (Louise A. Kennedy) 1906-1933
			2	7 Postcards addressed to Frances L. Achey 1907-1924
			3	41 Postcards Mrs. Kleon Thaw Brown (Katherine Kennedy Brown) 1910-1962 and 1 postcard Mr. Sherwood Kennedy
				1906
			4	32 Unused Postcards (including one Wright Brothers in Flight)

Series II: Family

Box	1	File	5	items with the family name on them
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Series III: Martha McClellan Brown

Box	1	File	6	R.M.S. Lusitania 1911, Cruise Catalog 1911, items in foreign language, Peace Council letter 1914
			7	1900-1920's Play programs from different theaters around the U.S., playgoers magazine

Series IV: Travel Souveniors

Box	1	File	8	Tour Brochure of New Orleans 1900, City of York guide, travel ads, New Philadelphia, PA map 1884, Cruise Brochures 1900's
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Series V: Religion

Box	1	File	9	Church manuals 1908, 1913, 1919, 1920, 1922, 1923, Reformed faith 1907, Church Bulletins (Programs) Grafton Kennedy Clerk of Seccions
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Series VI: Ephemera

Box	1	File	10	Dance card; coal cards 1880's; Zadikiel's Almanac 1891; 1890's tickets Opera House, Police Benevolent Association American Express 1896, 97- Ciper codes
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Series VII: Politics

Box	1	File	11	patriotic book (ca. 1914), Lincoln's Gettysburg Address,
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G.O.P. invitation and pricelist, Elephant items

Series VIII: Photographs

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| Box | 2 | File | 1 | All property of Kleon Thaw Brown: family photos, cabinet cards, negatives 1917 Vacation to South America |
| | | | 2 | Unidentified negatives without photographs |
| | | | 3 | 16 Cabinet Cards labeled "Classmates" ca. 1887 |
| | | | 4 | 9 Portraits and Cabinet Cards marked Property of Martha |
| | | | | Brown- 1 Cabinet Card is of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton |
| | | | 5 | Identified Cabinet Cards and Potraits |
| | | | 6 | Unidentified Scenery Photos and Cabinet Cards |
| | | | 7 | Unidentified probably Family members |
| | | | 8 | Unidentified Cabinet Cards |
| Box | 3 | File | 1 | Wright Brothers early wright flyer glassplate negative and print |
| | | | 2 | 39 Unidentified Glassplate negatives, a brief description written on each |