

MS-512, Marianna Nixon Papers

Collection Number: MS-512

Title: Marianna Nixon Papers

Dates: 1799-2008 (bulk 1880-1990)

Creator: Nixon, Marianna McKnight, 1919-2010

Summary/Abstract:

Marianna McKnight Nixon was a lifelong Daytonian and descendant of several prominent families of the Dayton area, including the McKnights, Dovers, and Van Cleves. The collection is primarily comprised of photographs of Marianna's life and family, as well as correspondence, genealogical information, and printed materials such as newspaper clippings, brochures, and periodicals.

Quantity/Physical Description: 3 linear feet

Language: English

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, OH
45435-0001, (937) 775-2092

Restrictions on Access:

There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

Restrictions on Use:

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Preferred Citation:

[Box #, Folder #], MS-512, Marianna Nixon Papers, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

Acquisition: The papers were donated to Wright State University, Special Collections & Archives, by Laurie Ruscillo in March, 2014.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Additional Sources: Obituaries for both Marianna Nixon and Dr. Gary Nixon were found online and are included in the collection.

Processed by: Kristina Richey, 2016

Arrangement:

Oversize materials are physically stored in Box 8, though listed intellectually within the series inventory. The collection is arranged into 5 series:

Series I: Correspondence, 1799-2009, bulk 1840-1890

Series II: Photographs, circa 1880-2009

Subseries IIA: Marianna Nixon Family Photographs, 1880-1937

Subseries IIB: Marianna Nixon Personal Photographs, 1938-2009

Subseries IIC: Dr. Gary Nixon Photographs, circa 1970-2010

Series III: Printed and Published Materials, 1882-2008

Series IV: Genealogy Documents, 1976-2008

Series V: Personal Papers and Memorabilia, 1936-2007

Biographical/Historical Note:

Marianna McKnight was born on November 11, 1919 to Fay McKnight and Mary Corine Irwin. She was the only child to the couple. Her father, Fay, died in 1921 after contracting the flu during the Flu Epidemic of 1918-1920. This left her mother to raise Marianna on her own. As a child, Marianna spent much of her time with her father's family, E.E. McKnight, wife Anna Dover McKnight, and their children. Marianna attended high school and was active in the drama club, performing in a production of Jane Eyre in 1936. Marianna went on to graduate from Miami Valley Hospital School of Nursing in 1940. She was a nurse for 33 years. In her later years, Marianna enjoyed visiting friends and family in Washington state. She died in 2010.

Marianna met Roger Omer Nixon when they were both young and they later married in August of 1940. Roger was active in the ROTC and received training at Fort Sheridan, Illinois. After this, he went into the Coast Artillery in the Army. He and Marianna moved to Newport, Rhode Island where Roger served, but at the start of World War II he was sent abroad. He served primarily in the Pacific Theatre of the war, in the Palau Islands. Roger died in 1983.

Marianna and Roger had two children, Gary and James. Gary (1944-2007) was a research physicist and fly fishing enthusiast. His passion for fishing is evident by his many trips to Alaska. James (b.1948) served in the Navy for six years and later became a contractor.

Marianna was an avid amateur genealogist and retained correspondence and photographs of her ancestors. From these documents, Marianna's deep roots to prominent families in the Dayton area are evident. Marianna's paternal grandparents, E.E. and Anna (Dover) McKnight had four children: Fay, Louise(a), Ida, and Leroy "Roy". Anna's parents, Louisa Donovan and Thomas Dover (1829-1881), married in 1857. Thomas Dover was a local pharmacist. Tragically, Thomas fell off a ladder in his shop and died in 1881. Louisa died fifteen years later in 1896. Thomas Dover was the son of Samuel Best Dover and Henrietta Van Cleve. Henrietta was the daughter of Benjamin Van Cleve, Dayton's first school teacher and postmaster. The Dover's are related to the Wright family through the Van Cleve line.

On her mother's side Marianna is descended from the Irwin, Kirchner, and Spreen families.

Scope and Content

The collection primarily documents the life of Marianna Nixon and her family, through photographs, memorabilia, and correspondence. There is a large amount of historic correspondence from Marianna Nixon's ancestors and prominent families in the Dayton area. Correspondence dates from 1799-1901, with the bulk being from 1820-1860. Photographs date from 1900-1990, with the bulk from 1940-1990. These records provide insight into life in the Dayton area from a wide range of dates, from Marianna's time (1940-1990), to her ancestors (1820-1900). They document the fashion, architecture, local history, and opinions of the time. This collection can also provide insight to a number of families, including the Best, Drill, McKnight, Lawton, Nixon, Van Cleve, and Dover families.

Series I, Correspondence, is organized into six main groupings: Milton Wright Papers, Financial and Legal, Compliment Cards, Family Correspondence, Postcards and Undated Correspondence, and Personal Correspondence of Marianna Nixon. The correspondence is an excellent view into life in the Dayton area in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The letters cover a range of topics like family news, gardening, travels, and condolences. Correspondence is primarily between the Dover, McKnight, Lawton, and Donovan families. Other family names that appear less frequently are Van Cleve, Best, Simpson, and Drill. The Milton Wright papers are all related to common genealogy between Anna McKnight and Milton Wright. All items are organized chronologically within folders.

Series II, Photographs, is divided into three subseries. The majority of the photographs were already divided into photographs created by Marianna and photographs created by her family. This allowed them to be grouped in date ranges. Some family members (Roger Nixon and Corine Irwin) show up in both sections. When possible photographs were filed in the group already provided by the creator. The photographs are organized chronologically. Many of the photographs are labeled on the back with some variation of place, year, and person.

Series II, Subseries IIA, Marianna Nixon Family Photographs, 1877-1937, focuses on the family of Marianna McKnight. Frequently represented are E.E. McKnight, Anna Dover McKnight, and their children, Fay, Louise, Ida, Leroy. This subseries documents Marianna's childhood. Included are card-mounted photographs, pages from a scrapbook, and many black and white photographs.

Series II, Subseries IIB, Marianna Nixon Personal Photographs and Videos, 1938-2009, is comprised of the photographic collection of Marianna McKnight. These photographs document her adult life.

Series II, Subseries IIC, Dr. Gary Nixon Photographs, circa 1970-2010, predominantly documents Gary Nixon's fishing trips to Alaska. Also included are photographs of his time spent in Amsterdam, various trips, and a booklet of his gravesite.

Series III, Printed and Published Materials, 1882-2008, were saved typically only when they involved family history or local history that impacted her family, such as the Dayton Flood. She

also collected several recent newspapers (2008) about German Baptists in the area. Included in this series are newspaper clippings, periodicals, local histories, advertisements, prints, and commencements. Objects of note are an edition of Delco Doings which feature photographs of Ida McKnight and NCR Factory News which feature an article about Anna Dover and Benjamin Van Cleve as well as a small prayer book previously owned by Ida McKnight.

Series IV, Genealogy Documents, 1976-2008, is comprised of four main sections. Marianna's maternal genealogy (Kirchner/Irwin), Marianna's paternal genealogy (McKnight/Van Cleve), miscellaneous genealogy documents, and bound copies of her maternal genealogy. Janis Bigelow Pahnke was primarily responsible for compiling the genealogical information.

Series V, Personal Papers and Memorabilia, 1936-2007, includes high school drama awards, Miami Valley School of Nursing documents, two of Roger Nixon's war communications, and miscellaneous personal papers.

Subject Terms:

Persons/Families

Van Cleve, Benjamin, 1773-1821

Wright, Milton, 1828-1917

Organizations/Corporate Names

NCR Corporation

Places

Dayton (Ohio)

Subjects (General)

Genealogy

Nursing -- History

Material Types

Black-and-white photographs

Brochures

Cabinet photographs

Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)

Color photographs

Correspondence

Postcards

Occupations

Nurse

Collection Inventory

Series I		Correspondence, 1799-2009, bulk 1840-1890	
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Milton Wright Genealogy Papers	1900, 1901
	2	Legal and Financial	1828-1911
	3	Compliment Cards	circa 1900
	4	Family Correspondence	1799-1832
	5	Family Correspondence	1833-1839
	6	Family Correspondence	1840-1849
2	1	Family Correspondence	1850-1868
	2	Family Correspondence	1879-1896
	3	Postcards, Undated Letters, Letter Fragments	1881-1909, Undated
	4	Personal Correspondence (See also Box 5, File 3 and 4 for photographs sent with Gary Nixon's holiday letter)	1976-2008
	5	Personal Correspondence	2009, Undated
Series II		Photographs, 1799-2009, bulk 1840-1890	
		Subseries IIA: Marianna Nixon Family Photographs, 1877-1937	
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
3	1	E.E. McKnight, Anna Dover, and children Fay, Roy, Louisa, and Ida McKnight	circa 1877-1915
8 OV	1	E.E. McKnight, Anna Dover, and children Fay, Roy, Louisa, and Ida McKnight [10" x 11"]	circa 1910
3	2	E.E. McKnight, Anna Dover, and children Fay, Roy, Louisa, and Ida McKnight	circa 1915-1935
	3	McKnight Family Gatherings	circa 1915-1940
	4	McKnight Family Scrapbook	circa 1920-1930
	5	Corine Irwin and Family	circa 1890-1935
8 OV	1	Kirchner Family Portrait [10" x 12"]	circa 1877
3	6	Marianna McKnight Childhood	1919-1937
	7	Roger Nixon and Family	circa 1900-1934
	8	Miscellaneous Identified Relatives	circa 1890-1930
	9	Miscellaneous Unidentified Relatives	circa 1890-1930
8 OV	2	Miscellaneous Unidentified Relatives – Two Portraits of a Woman	circa 1910
3	10	Houses, Animals, Holidays	circa 1900-1930
		Subseries IIB: Marianna Nixon Personal Photographs and Videos, 1938-	

2009			
Box	File	Description	Date
4	1	Marianna Nixon Adulthood	circa 1938-1995
8 OV	3	Nursing Class of 1940, Group Photographs [11" x 14"]	1940
4	2	Newport, Rhode Island	1942 Mar-Dec
	3	Marianna Nixon, Ruth Gauge, Betty Kieswetter, 14 Morton	1941-1942
	4	Indian Lake, Honeymoon, First Car and Wirshingo (?), XMas	1939-1944
	5	Roger Nixon	circa 1939-1960
8 OV	4	Roger Nixon, ROTC at Fort Sheridan [6" x 15"]	1939 Jun
4	6	Roger Nixon-Pacific Theater	1944
	7	Jim and Gary Nixon	circa 1945-1971
	8	Logan Elm	1955
	9	Greenlawn	undated
	10	Corine Irwin McKnight and Family	1940-1950
	11	Miscellaneous Identified Relatives	circa 1940-1960
	12	Miscellaneous Unidentified Relatives	circa 1940-1980
	13	Houses, Animals, Holidays	circa 1940-1990
5	1	July 1983 Trip	1983
	2	Gary Nixon's House Massachusetts	circa 1988-2000
	3	Gary Nixon, Ingrid-Massachusetts, Scotland, Vermont, Amsterdam	circa 1988-2000
	4	Gary Nixon, Ingrid-Massachusetts, Scotland, Vermont, Amsterdam	circa 1988-2000
	5	Cats, home, backyard	circa 1990
	6	Washington State, Eastern Cascades, Puget Sound, Jeanne, Joyce, Erma, Marianna	circa 1990-2000
	7	Washington State, Eastern Cascades, Puget Sound, Jeanne, Joyce, Erma, Marianna	circa 1990-2000
	8	Washington State, Eastern Cascades, Puget Sound, Jeanne, Joyce, Erma, Marianna	circa 1990-2000
	9	Washington State, Eastern Cascades, Puget Sound, Jeanne, Joyce, Erma, Marianna	circa 1990-2000
	10	Washington State, Eastern Cascades, Puget Sound, Jeanne, Joyce, Erma, Marianna	circa 1990-2000
	11	Andy Stone	circa 1995-1998
	12	Relative's Trip to Tanzania	circa 2004
	13	Alpine, Texas Trip	2006
	14	Houses, Furniture, Miscellaneous Trips	circa 1980-1990

	15	Family, Friends, Children	circa 1980-2008
	16	Family, Friends, Children	circa 1980-2008
	17	Washington Trip Negatives	2000 Nov 6
7	1	2 VHS Tapes	circa 2000
Subseries IIC: Dr. Gary Nixon Photographs, circa 1970-2010			
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
5	18	Fishing, Aviation, Camping, Alaska	circa 1980
	19	Fishing, Aviation, Camping, Alaska	circa 1980
	20	Fishing, Aviation, Camping, Alaska	circa 1980
	21	Fishing, Aviation, Camping, Alaska	circa 1980
	22	Fishing, Aviation, Camping, Alaska	circa 1980
	23	Dayton Air Show, Marianna Nixon's Cats, Jim's House	1987, undated
	24	Family and Friends	circa 1970-2008
	25	Marianna Nixon House, Cats, Backyard	1990, undated
	26	Marianna Nixon House, Cats, Backyard	1990, undated
	27	Marianna Nixon Washington Trip	circa 1990-2000
	28	Fishing, Aviation, Camping, Alaska	circa 1998
	29	Fishing, Aviation, Camping, Alaska	circa 1998
	30	Fishing, Aviation, Camping, Alaska	circa 1998
	31	Fishing, Aviation, Camping, Alaska	circa 1998
	32	Fishing, Aviation, Camping, Alaska	circa 1998
	33	Fishing, Aviation, Camping, Alaska	circa 1998
	34	Fishing, Aviation, Camping, Alaska	circa 1998
	35	Fishing, Aviation, Camping, Alaska	circa 1998
	36	Fishing, Aviation, Camping, Alaska	circa 1998
	37	Fishing, Aviation, Camping, Alaska	circa 1998
	38	Fishing, Aviation, Camping, Alaska	circa 1998
	39	Fishing, Aviation, Camping, Alaska	circa 1998
	40	Saratoga Springs, New Hampshire, Alpine, Texas	2006, undated
Series III Printed and Published Materials, 1882-2008			
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
6	1	Advertisements, Prints, Weekly Commercial Report, Gem City Saver	1882-1915, 1963
	2	Dedications, Commencements, Initiations, Prayer Book	1890-1940, 1986
	3	Dayton Flood Book and Dayton Flood Newspaper	1913, circa 1960

		Clippings	
	4	Periodicals	1919-1945, 1992
	5	Published Histories- Historical Society of Ohio, National Cash Register Company	1922, 1959
	6	Newspaper Clippings- Dayton History, Van Cleve History, Dayton Buildings, German Baptist	1882-1940
	7	Newspaper Clippings- Dayton History, Van Cleve History, Dayton Buildings, German Baptist	1976-2008
8 OV	5	Benjamin Van Cleve article "Daytonian by Accident" from <i>Camerica</i>	1962 Mar
6	8	McPherson Town Brochures, Woodland Cemetery Announcement	circa 1990, 2009
Series IV		Genealogy Documents, 1976-2008	
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
6	9	Kirchner/Irwin History	1976-1994, undated
	10	Van Cleve/McKnight History	1988, undated
	11	Miscellaneous Genealogy	1997, undated
	12	Bound Genealogies of Marianna Nixon	2001, 2008
Series V		Personal Papers and Memorabilia, 1936-2007	
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
6	13	High School Awards	1936-1937
	14	Miami Valley Hospital School of Nursing	1940-1951
	15	Miami Valley Hospital School of Nursing Yearbook and History	1951, 1986
	16	Roger Nixon World War II Papers	1944
	17	Gary Nixon Funeral Program and Gravesite Photobook	2007-2010