

Max Merrill and Gladys Gray Merrill Collection, 1915-1922
MSS 218
0.25 Linear Feet

Background

Gladys Gray Merrill was a 1919 graduate of St. Lawrence University and a public school teacher in Heuvelton and Norwood, New York for several years after graduation. Clyde Maxwell Merrill was a resident of Canton, a veteran of the World War I who saw duty in France, and, after the war, a partner in the plumbing and heating firm Tupper, Storrs and Merrill in Canton. The couple met while Gladys was at SLU and maintained correspondence throughout their courtship. The couple was married in July of 1922.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of approximately 100 letters and ephemeral documents. The majority are letters from Max to Gladys beginning in 1917 when Max enters the service, through 1922. Most of the letters are in original envelopes and are signed "Max". The letters are addressed to Gladys's childhood home in Canton, as well as in Heuvelton and Norwood during her days as a teacher. Also included are a number of ephemeral pieces representing Gladys's college days at SLU, as well as letters of recommendation from a number of professors and administrators. A stripe from Max's army uniform is also part of the collection.

Organization and arrangement

The collection is organized by type of document and roughly chronologically.

Provenance

Purchased from Tom Jenison in December 2018.

Folder 1

Three photographs and a letter to Gladys from her cousin Everitt dated Nov. 14, 1915
Several pieces of SLU ephemera, Panhellenic Regulations, banquet programs, Moving Up Day programs, Commencement program, playbill from SLU drama
Letters from other people while Gladys is in college, Wedding invitation, SLU grade report

Folder 2

Letters of recommendation for Gladys Gray from Sarah Plaisance, V. J Warner, Charles Kelsey Gaines, M. B. Garrett

Folder 3

Letters from Max Merrill during his service in the U.S. Army in World War I, 1917-1919

Folder 4

Letters from Max Merrill while Gladys is teaching in Heuvelton; Teaching contract, 1920-21, correspondence concerning teaching positions available

Folder 5

Letters from Max while Gladys is teaching in Norwood, 1921- February 1922

Folder 6

Letters from Max while Gladys is teaching in Norwood, February-June 1922