

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: **Lamb Riley, Mary (c1885 - 19??)** **MC 2003.5**

Material: Family Papers (1862-1991)

Volume: 0.5 linear feet (1 Document Box and 1 Photograph Folder)

Donation: Original accession

Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Little is known about Mary Lamb Riley. She was the granddaughter of Rev. Dr. Charles Collins, who served as president of Dickinson College from 1852 to 1860. Mary married Armin Riley and lived in Garden City, New York for at least a portion of her adult life. She received regular correspondence from her mother, Harriet Collins Lamb, and her daughter, Marjorie Lamb Riley.

Harriet Collins Lamb, also known as Hattie, was born to Rev. Dr. Charles Collins and Mrs. Harriet Newell Hart Collins in 1855 or 1856. She attended the Female State College near Memphis, Tennessee, where her father served as proprietor and principal from 1860 until his death in 1875. Harriet married Thomas Avery Lamb, a Tennessee real estate agent, and was living in Memphis at the time of her mother's death in 1889. The majority of her letters to her daughter, Mary, were written in Maine, where Harriet and Avery regularly spent the summer and early fall.

Marjorie Lamb Riley was born on April 10, 1912. As a little girl, she often traveled to Maine during the summers to stay with her grandparents or to attend Camp Acadia. Marjorie enrolled at Smith College in 1931 and corresponded frequently with her mother during her college years. In her letters, Marjorie refers to her grandmother Harriet as Mammiam.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Mary Lamb Riley collection is housed in one document box and one photograph folder, and has been organized into three series: Correspondence, Miscellaneous, and Photographs.

The Correspondence series includes the bulk of the documents in this collection. The majority of the letters were sent to Mary Lamb Riley by her mother, Harriet Collins Lamb, and her daughter, Marjorie Lamb Riley. The letters from Harriet date from 1917 to 1931, with the bulk of them falling between 1921 and 1929. Harriet wrote primarily from her summer home in Maine, addressing family matters and vacation activities. The bulk of Marjorie's letters were written between 1931 and 1933, when she was a student at Smith College. Her correspondence contains references to campus traditions, academics, social activities, and family matters. The Correspondence series also contains a small number of letters written by family friends and other members of the Collins and Lamb families. The correspondence is arranged alphabetically by author, then alphabetically by recipient. All letters are arranged chronologically within each folder, with undated letters placed in the front.

The Miscellaneous series includes newspaper clippings, cancelled checks, and Collins/Riley family memorabilia. These pieces include some information about the birth of Marjorie Lamb Riley and the deaths of Rev. Dr. Charles Collins and his wife, Mrs. Harriet Newell Hart Collins. This category also includes a folder dedicated to the Homecoming of the Flags ceremony of 1930, during which two Civil War flags were returned to Memphis, Tennessee. All materials in the Miscellaneous series are arranged alphabetically by folder title.

The Photograph series includes nine unidentified photographs. They appear to be of flooding in Asia taken by Armin Riley. An envelope included with the photographs seems to have served as a receipt to Riley for their development. The photographs have been designated PC 2003.5 and are separated from the collection in a folder housed with the Dickinson College photo collection.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 - MC 2003.5

CORRESPONDENCE

Collins, Narcissa		
Folder 01)	Letter to "My Beloved Friend" - June 1, 1862	
Gilm[er], Elizabeth M.		
Folder 02)	Letter to Harriet Collins Lamb - undated	
Lamb, Harriet Collins		
Folder 03)	Letter to Mary Lamb Riley - undated	
	Letters to Mary Lamb Riley - 1917-1920	(3)
Folder 04)	Letters to Mary Lamb Riley - 1921	(16)
Folder 05)	Letters to Mary Lamb Riley - 1922-1923	(20)
Folder 06)	Letters to Mary Lamb Riley - 1926-1927	(18)
Folder 07)	Letters to Mary Lamb Riley - 1928	(19)
Folder 08)	Letters to Mary Lamb Riley - 1929	(15)
Folder 09)	Letters to Mary Lamb Riley - 1930-1931	(4)
Lamb, T. A.		
Folder 10)	Letter to Mary Lamb Riley - Oct. 11, 1922	
Randall, C. Walter		
Folder 11)	Letter to Harriet Collins Lamb - Sep. 8, 1926	

BOX 1 - MC 2003.5 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

Riley, Marjorie Lamb

- Folder 12) Letters to Harriet Collins Lamb - Nov. 1931 (2)
- Folder 13) Letter to T. A. Lamb - July 11, 1925
- Folder 14) Letter to Armin Riley - Nov. 24, 1931
- Folder 15) Letter to Mary Lamb Riley - undated
- Letters to Mary Lamb Riley - 1921-1929 (5)
- Folder 16) Letters to Mary Lamb Riley - 1931 (10)
- Folder 17) Letters to Mary Lamb Riley - Jan.-Feb. 1932 (18)
- Folder 18) Letters to Mary Lamb Riley - Mar.-Apr. 1932 (15)
- Folder 19) Letters to Mary Lamb Riley - May-Dec. 1932 (13)
- Folder 20) Letters to Mary Lamb Riley - 1933 (20)
- Folder 21) Letter to Mary Lamb Riley - Feb. 4, 1935
- Folder 22) Letter to "Darling" [Mary Lamb Riley] - March 28, 1944

Shapley, Rufus E.

- Folder 23) Letter to Rev. Dr. Charles Collins - Jan. 5, 1863

MISCELLANEOUS

- Folder 24) Birth Announcement for Marjorie Lamb Riley - Apr. 10, 1912
- Folder 25) Business card of Henry D. Paxson
- Folder 26) Cancelled Checks of Mary Lamb Riley - 1944-1961
- Folder 27) Flyer for "Charming Travel Talks by Mrs. Branson De Cou: Old Mexico—Alluring Bali" - undated
- Folder 28) Memphis, Tenn., Homecoming of the Flags - 1930
- Folder 29) Newspaper clipping, "Old Elmwood Bell Awakens Both Sad and Glad Memories" - c1991
- Folder 30) Newspaper clipping, poem "Woman" - undated
- Folder 31) Obituaries (3) for Harriet Newell Hart Collins - Mar. 13, 1869
- Folder 32) Poem written by Narcissa Collins on the death of Willie Shield - June 1, 1862
- Folder 33) Valentine's Day Card - undated
- Folder 34) Will (2 copies) of Elizabeth C. Barton - Apr. 18, 1897 (modified Apr. 23)

PHOTOGRAPHS - PC 2003.5

- Folder 01) Nine photographs of flood [Asia] - undated

This collection register was prepared by Malinda Triller, June 2003.