BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Julia Morgan was born September 23, 1891 to Dr. James Henry Morgan and Mary Curran Morgan in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. She was educated in Carlisle, and attended the Conway Hall preparatory school and Dickinson College, graduating from the latter in 1911. Julia’s father, mother, and her younger siblings, Margaret Morgan McElfish and Hugh Morgan, also graduated from Dickinson, with the classes of 1878, 1888, 1914, and 1915, respectively. James Henry Morgan in particular had a long career at the college, most notably as president for nearly twenty years.

After college, Julia taught high school in both Carlisle and Spring City, Pennsylvania before enrolling at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School in 1916. Earning her M.D. there in 1920, she served as a University Hospital intern for two years before going to China as a medical missionary. Julia studied Chinese in Peking for a year and in 1924 joined the staff at the Cheeloo University Medical School in Tsinan, Shantung. She later taught at the Shantung Medical School. During her tenure as a missionary, Julia returned to America on furlough three times and studied in a number of hospitals in Boston, Philadelphia, and New York. She also did graduate work at the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine in present-day Kolkata, India.

Following the Japanese invasion of China in 1937, the medical school then employing Julia was forced to move into the interior of the country. She remained there for four more years, ultimately ending her missionary career in 1941 to rejoin the University of Pennsylvania Medical School staff as a professor of diagnosis and tropical medicine. In 1942, Dickinson College awarded her an honorary Doctorate of Science degree. Although she never married, Julia was very close to her immediate family and took great interest in her sister Margaret’s children. Julia Morgan died in Philadelphia on January 26, 1948.

These papers were donated by Edith McElfish, the wife of Julia Morgan’s nephew, James, and a 1942 graduate of Dickinson College.
The Julia Morgan correspondence and photographs are housed in one document box and forty-two photograph folders. The materials in this collection have been arranged into three series: Correspondence, Miscellaneous, and Photographs. The bulk of this collection is nearly equally made up of Julia Morgan’s correspondence from China and a number of photographs of her immediate and extended family members. Although the Correspondence and Miscellaneous materials were acquired in 2007, the photographs were donated sometime in the 1970s or 1980s.

The Correspondence series is organized alphabetically according to the individual, in this case solely Julia Morgan, who authored or received the letters. The letters sent by Julia are listed first alphabetically by the person to whom they are addressed and then arranged chronologically. These are followed by the letters received, which are listed alphabetically by sender and then chronologically. The letters date from 1930 to approximately 1934 and were primarily written by Julia to her father during the years of her medical service in China. Some correspondence is also addressed to her sister Margaret. Topics discussed range from Japanese aggression in Manchuria and the Chinese student reaction, to Julia’s personal interactions with patients, medical colleagues, and family. Additionally included within this series is a letter to Julia from three Chinese children in thanks for her assistance in their recovery, which was later read at her Carlisle funeral in 1948.

The Miscellaneous materials consist of two items, arranged chronologically: a copy of The Methodist newsletter from 1915 announcing James Henry Morgan’s election to the presidency of Dickinson College, and an undated drawing of him by his granddaughter Margaret (Peggy) McElfish.

The Photographs have been designated as PC 2008.2 and are housed separately within the Dickinson College Photograph Collection. They have been placed in alphabetical order by subject and then arranged chronologically. The collection numbers 45 photographs, many of which are of Julia either by herself or together with one or both of her siblings, in studio settings and around Carlisle. There are also a number of portraits of relatives on both the Curran and Morgan sides of the family. A few of the group pictures of Julia’s immediate family are located on the Dickinson College campus. The majority of the photographs are undated; however, the dates that are known span from 1869 to 1947.

### COLLECTION INVENTORY

**BOX 1 - MC 2008.2**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

| Folder 01) | Letter to Margaret (Peggy) McElfish – Oct. 26, 1929 |
| Folder 02) | Letter to James Henry Morgan – Jun. 1, 1930 |
| Folder 06) | Letter to James Henry Morgan – Sep. 1931 |
| Folder 07) | Letter to James Henry Morgan – Oct. 4, 1931 |
| Folder 08) | Letter to James Henry Morgan – Oct. 18, 1931 |
| Folder 09) | Letter to James Henry Morgan – Nov. 8, 1931 |
CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)
Morgan, Julia (cont.)
   Sent (cont.)
   Folder 12) Letter to James Henry Morgan – Mar. 18, 1932
   Folder 14) Letter to James Henry Morgan – Aug. 7, 1932
   Folder 16) Letter to James Henry Morgan – Nov. 13, 1932
   Folder 17) Letter to James Henry Morgan – Dec. 12, 1932
   Folder 18) Letter to James Henry Morgan – Feb. 12, 1933
   Folder 19) Letter to James Henry Morgan – Mar. 8, 1933
   Folder 20) Letter to James Henry Morgan – Apr. 2, 1933
   Folder 22) Letter to James Henry Morgan – 1934
   Folder 23) Letter to James Henry Morgan – Apr. 3, 1933
   Folder 24) Letter to James Henry Morgan – May 1, 1933
   Folder 25) Letter to James Henry Morgan – Nov. 27, 1933
   Folder 26) Letter to James Henry Morgan – Dec. 15, 1933
   Folder 27) Letter to James Henry Morgan – 1934[?]
   Folder 28) Letter to James Henry Morgan – 1934[?]
   Folder 29) Letter to James Henry Morgan – 1934[?]
   Folder 30) Letter to James Henry Morgan – undated
   Folder 31) Letter to James Henry Morgan – undated

Received
Folder 36) Letter (typescript) from Ting Shih Chieh, Wang Ta Lin, & Ting Tai Hsia – undated

MISCELLANEOUS
Folder 38) Drawing of James Henry Morgan by Margaret (Peggy) McElfish – undated
PHOTOGRAPHS - PC 2008.2

Curran, James
   Folder 01) Portrait – c.1869
Curran, Mary Rebecca [Mrs. James Henry Morgan]
   Folder 02) Portrait – c.1869
   Folder 03) Portrait – undated
Curran, Sarah
   Folder 04) Portrait – c.1869
   Folder 05) Portrait with James McElfish – c.1921
Dickinson College Faculty
   Folder 06) Forrest E. Craver in academic regalia – undated
   Folder 07) Milton Walker Eddy in academic regalia – undated
   Folder 08) Gilbert Malcolm Christmas card – undated
Jefferson, Rebecca J.
   Folder 09) Portrait – undated
Learned, Mary
   Folder 10) Portrait – undated
Morgan, Ella
   Folder 11) Portrait – undated
Morgan, Ema V.
   Folder 12) Portrait – undated
Morgan Family
   Folder 13) Margaret Morgan McElfish wedding party – 1919
   Folder 14) Outside Bosler Hall – c.1922
   Folder 15) On Old West steps – undated
   Folder 16) At dining room table – undated
   Folder 17) On sidewalk – undated
   Folder 18) Uncle Mac at Dickinson commencement – undated
   Folder 19) James Henry Morgan with Hugh, James and Margaret McElfish – undated
   Folder 20) In the backyard – undated
Morgan-Hartman House
   Folder 21) W. Louther Street – undated
Morgan, James Henry
   Folder 22) With Mary R. Curran – c.1890s
   Folder 23) Portrait – undated
   Folder 24) With Dickinson College faculty at Pocono Pines – undated
Morgan, Julia
   Folder 25) Portrait – Mar. 25, 1892 (2)
   Folder 26) Portrait – c.1915
   Folder 27) Portrait, strip of three with two other females – c.1915
   Folder 28) Portrait, with pointed collar – undated
   Folder 29) With male drying dishes – undated
   Folder 30) Portrait by Massachusetts General Hospital – undated
   Folder 31) Receiving honorary degree – 1942 (2)
   Folder 32) In white dress – undated
Morgan, Julia, Hugh and Margaret
Folder 33) Portrait with Mary Curran Morgan – c.1890
Folder 34) Portrait around Julia writing – c.1906
Folder 35) Portrait playing jacks – c.1906
Folder 36) Portrait standing – c.1906 (2)
Folder 37) Portrait by Doolittle – undated
Folder 38) On sidewalk – undated

Morgan, Julia and Margaret
Folder 39) Portrait by J.N. Choate – Oct. 1893
Folder 40) With unknown female – Jul. 11, 1947
Folder 41) Portrait with Uncle Hall – undated

Morgan, W.W.
Folder 42) Portrait – Sep. 17, 1891

This collection register was prepared by Alissa Zawoyski, January 2008.