

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

**COLLECTION REGISTER**

Name: **Dum Family Collection** **MC 2007.5**

Material: Papers (1906–1970)

Volume: 0.25 linear feet (1 Document Box, 1 Oversized Folder, Photograph Folders 1-3)

Donation: Gift of Margaret Anne (Peggy) Ferrell, Carolyn Kenworthy, and Robert Frey, 1991 and 2007.

Usage: These materials have no restrictions on usage.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Blanche Lightner Dum was born December 16, 1886 to George Billow and Annie Simmons Spotts Dum in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. She graduated from the Dickinson Preparatory School in 1907 and Dickinson College in 1910 as a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Although briefly employed in 1910 and 1911 as a high school Latin and German teacher in Ambler, Pennsylvania, Blanche spent the majority of her career teaching English. From 1920 to 1922, she served in this capacity in Roswell, New Mexico and Pueblo, Colorado, while living with her widowed brother, Ray Dum, and his young daughter, Jeanne Dum. Sometime after Ray's remarriage in 1922, Blanche enrolled in a Columbia University master's program in New York City. She abandoned it in the spring of 1923, however, to raise her niece, Jeanne, in place of the girl's reluctant stepmother. Blanche spent the rest of her life in Carlisle, where she and her sister, Miriam Dum Frey, cared for Jeanne and various other young relatives. Blanche was known locally for her long and respected career in the Carlisle High School English Department, which dedicated its 1948 yearbook to her in honor of thirty-three years' teaching. Blanche retired on October 1, 1950 and died twenty-seven years later on February 16, 1977 in Carlisle.

Blanche's sister, Miriam Anna Dum Frey, was born November 9, 1891 in Landisburg, Pennsylvania. She attended the Carlisle High School and graduated from Dickinson College in 1913. Like her sister, Miriam was also a local high school teacher, teaching from 1920 to 1924. On July 16, 1924, she married Jacob Mark Frey ("Mark"), a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. For the next four or five years, the Freys lived in Quakertown, Pennsylvania, where Mark ran a highly successful Dodge automobile agency. During this time they had three children: Anna Louise Frey, who died before her first birthday; Miriam Carolyn Frey Kenworthy; and Robert Mark Frey. Financially flourishing, the family moved to Germantown, Pennsylvania in either 1928 or 1929. Miriam and Mark's fourth child, Margaret Anne Frey Ferrell ("Peggy"), was born there on March 23, 1930. By July 1931, the Depression had so

depleted their resources that Miriam, Mark, and their three children were forced to sell their house and move into the Dum family home in Carlisle. Miriam remained there for the rest of her life and at some point became involved in local philanthropy. In addition to teaching Sunday school at the Second Presbyterian Church and directing the Lydia Baird Home for elderly women, she was a member of the Female Benevolent Society, the American Association of University Women, and the Daughters of the American Revolution. Miriam died on May 19, 1988 in Carlisle.

Miriam and Blanche's brother, the Reverend Ray Spotts Dum, was born circa 1888. Like Blanche, he attended both the Dickinson Preparatory School and Dickinson College, graduating with the classes of 1908 and 1911, respectively. After college, Ray studied for the Methodist ministry at Drew Seminary in New Jersey, where he met his first wife, Jennie Helene McWhood. Diagnosed with tuberculosis and seeking a drier climate, Ray accepted a position as minister for Clayton, New Mexico after his graduation from Drew in June, 1914. Jennie and Ray married on August 11 of that year and had two children: Ray Spotts Dum, Jr., who died in infancy in 1915, and Jeanne Elizabeth Dum Birrell, born June 14, 1916. Jennie McWhood Dum died of tuberculosis in May 1920 while she, Ray, and Jeanne were living in Roswell, New Mexico. Over the subsequent two years, Blanche Dum and Jennie's sister, Bess McWhood, resided with Ray and cared for Jeanne in New Mexico and Pueblo, Colorado, at Ray's next ministerial appointment. On June 3, 1922, Ray married his second wife, Kate Heller, in Pueblo. Although his family considered his marriage to Kate a difficult one, Ray was unwilling to divorce her and lose his credentials as a minister. Problems included Kate's refusal to raise Jeanne as her own child and her wish that Ray change their last name to the more socially flattering "Dunn," which he eventually did. Ray and Kate had two sons: Robert Ray Dum, born September 27, 1923 in Pueblo; and Philip Dum, born in Longmont, Colorado on October 5, 1927. Both boys' last names had become "Dunn" by the time their half-sister Jeanne married Marcus Birrell on August 7, 1940. At that time, Robert and Philip, who were living in Portland, Oregon with their parents, were informed about Jeanne, who had been living in Carlisle with Blanche Dum. Kate Heller died on March 4, 1946, and by 1950 Ray had become involved with his third and final wife, Mirabel, a widow with one daughter. Ray Spotts Dum (Dunn) died of colon cancer around 1953 or 1954.

These materials were donated by Miriam's children, Margaret Anne Frey Ferrell ("Peggy"), Miriam Carolyn Frey Kenworthy, and Robert Mark Frey. Peggy attended Dickinson as a member of the class of 1951, but did not graduate. Robert graduated from Dickinson College in 1951 and from the Dickinson School of Law in 1953. He practices as a lawyer in Carlisle.

## COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Dum family collection is housed in one document box, one oversized folder, and three photograph folders. It has been organized into seven series: papers related to Blanche Dum, Miriam Dum, Ray Dum, the Carlisle High School, Dickinson College, Miscellaneous, and Photographs. Within these categories the collection has been separated into folders for similar documents, the contents of which are then arranged chronologically. The exception to this is the Carlisle High School series, in which papers have been arranged alphabetically by title since the majority are undated.

The Blanche Dum series includes sporadic correspondence dating from 1906 to 1943, bills and academic reports from both the Dickinson Preparatory School and Dickinson College, and three student notebooks. Other highlights are programs from various college events and

entry certificates for her freshman and junior years. Blanche's Dickinson College diploma is located separately in an oversized folder and has been designated as OC 2007.5.

The Miriam Dum series consists of correspondence from 1919 and 1943, materials relating to her fiftieth college class reunion in 1963, and two student essays. Miriam's provisional college certificate, authorizing her to teach in Pennsylvanian public schools, is housed in the collection's oversized folder, OC 2007. 5.

The Ray Dum series is mostly bills and programs related to his 1905–1907 attendance at the Dickinson Preparatory School. Also present are two bills and a commencement program from Dickinson College, dating from 1909 and 1911, and a 1913 program from the Philologoi literary society at Drew Seminary.

The Carlisle High School series is comprised chiefly of English reading lists and holiday-themed handouts,

The Dickinson College series contains additional College publications and special event programs spanning the years 1909 to 1970, and two Dickinson-related newspaper clippings.

The Miscellaneous series is made up in large part of additional correspondence, including several postcards sent to Mr. and Mrs. A. Clarke and four pen-pal letters from British students to their American peers circa 1938. Other significant materials are a Morris Watson Prince poem transcribed by Annie Dum and a student composition by either Blanche or Miriam. An oversized "College Lad and Lassie" poster, dated to 1908, constitutes Oversized Folder 02 – OC 2007.5.

The Photographs have been designated as PC 2007.5 and are separately. The majority of the images in this collection have been glued to two scrapbook pages, with a few accompanying captions. Pictured are Blanche, Miriam, Ray, their parents, and unknown others. Photograph locations include the Dum family residence at 629 South Hanover Street in Carlisle, the Dickinson College campus, and a lodge labeled "Braethorn." Four miscellaneous photographs, two of Dickinson College students and two of unidentified tourists, are also included in this series.

For additional materials related to the Dum family, see the following collection, also located in the Dickinson College Archives and Special Collections:

George Dum Business and Estate Papers (MC 2008.1)

## COLLECTION INVENTORY

### **BOX 1 - MC 2007.5**

#### BLANCHE L. DUM

##### Correspondence

##### Folder 01)

##### Letters Received

From Charles [Merz?] – Aug. 21, 1942

From Carolyn Frey – Oct. 14, 1943

From Charles H. Masland III – Jun. 7, 1949

##### Postcards Received

From Herbert W. Faus – Aug. 11, 1906

From "Dot" – Oct. 1, 1910

From Dorothy W. – Jun. 25, 1932

From George W. [Sreisbash?] III – Oct. 6, 1939

##### Postcards Sent

To "Mamma," – undated

**BOX 1 - MC 2007.5 (cont.)**

BLANCHE L. DUM (cont.)

Dickinson Preparatory School

- Folder 02) Bills – 1904-1905
- Term Reports – Fall 1904-Winter 1905
- Tri-weekly Reports – 1906

Dickinson College

- Folder 03) Bills – 1906
- Certificates
  - Freshman Class admission – Sep. 13, 1906
  - Junior Class advancement – Jun. 10, 1908
- Newspaper Clipping, 1910 Reunion – Jun. 6, 1960

- Folder 04) Notebooks
  - German Exercises – undated.
  - Composition Book – Sep. 8, 1900
  - Biology Notebook – c 1910

- Folder 05) Programs
  - Class of 1910 Class Day Exercises – Jun. 6, 1910
  - Commencement – Jun. 8, 1910
- Receipts – 1906
- Term Reports – 1906-1908
- Treasurer's Envelopes
  - "The Clemens Prize " – 1907
  - "The Mc Daniel Prize (Freshman)" – 1907

MIRIAM A. DUM FREY

Correspondence

- Folder 06) From Helen B. Malcolm – 1919
- From Carolyn Frey – Oct. 14, 1943

Dickinson College

- Class of 1913 Materials
  - Folder 07) "Profile of the Class of 1913" – Aug. 2, 1963
  - Nametag, "Miriam D. Frey 1913"

Compositions

- Folder 08) Sophomore Essay on Charles Lamb – 1911
- Sophomore Essay on Wordsworth – 1913

**BOX 1 - MC 2007.5 (cont.)**

RAY S. DUM

Folder 09)

Dickinson Preparatory School

Bills – 1905-1906

Conway Hall Glee, Dramatic Club Program – May 23, 1907

Dickinson College

Bills – 1909, 1911

Drew Seminary

Philologoi Literary Society Banquet Program – Mar. 4, 1913.

CARLISLE HIGH SCHOOL

Folder 10) Booklists

“Biography”

“Books That Have Shaped the World” – undated

“Carlisle Library Booklist – 1944-1945

“English 7 Reading List” – undated

“English 8 Reading List” – undated

“English 9 Freshmen Reading List” – undated

“Historical Novels” – undated

“Library Reading List – Senior English” – undated

“List of Essays” – undated

“Non-fiction” – undated

“Novels With U.S. History Background” – undated

“Reading List for 9<sup>th</sup> Grade English” – undated

“Social Sciences (continued)” – undated

“Suggested Reading for Book Week” – undated

“Supplementary Reading List. Fiction” – undated

“Supplementary Reading List, Fiction” – undated

“Supplementary Reading List. Nonfiction” – undated

Handouts

“Bulletin of Christmas Sources” – c 1946

“Christmas Carols” handout – undated

“Christmas in Many Lands” handout – undated

“The Christmas Spirit” – undated

“Junior Declamation Preliminaries” – undated

“Name the author” answer key – undated

“Observing Easter in Our School” – undated

“Subjects for Senior Essays” – undated

“Suggestions for Judging” – undated

## **BOX 1 - MC 2007.5 (cont.)**

### DICKINSON COLLEGE

- Folder 11) Newspaper Clippings  
“Dickinson to Open 146<sup>th</sup> Year Tomorrow” – undated  
“Dr. Filler Honored by Ohio Wesleyan” – Feb. ?
- Programs  
Dedication of Drayer Hall – May 1, 1952  
Honorary Freedom of Carlisle to William Edel – Jun. 8, 1952  
“Seeking Guidance” Allison Methodist Church – Jan. 24, 1954  
Dedication of Durbin Oratory – Feb. 23, 1954

### MISCELLANEOUS

- Folder 12) Letters  
From Dennis Langhorne to “Friend” – undated  
From “John G. Showerbath” to unknown – Nov. 8, 1905  
From Colin Edmond Wright to “Friend” – Nov. 20, 1938  
From Eric Gilliland to “Friend” – Nov. 22, 1938  
From Laurence Storey to “Friend” – Nov. 22, 1938  
From “Anne C.” to “Miss Dum” – Nov. 29, 1947
- Postcards  
From “Aunt Bess” [Bess McWhood] to Jeanne E. Dum – undated  
From Various to Mr. and Mrs. A. Clarke – 1941-1945
- Folder 13) Program, “Carlisle’s Pennsylvania Week Dinner” – Oct. 1, 1948  
Morris Watson Prince Poem, recopied by Annie Spotts Dum – undated  
“Miss Dum,” Composition on Barbara Haines – undated

## **OVERSIZED FOLDER - OC 2007.5**

- Folder 01)  
BLANCHE L. DUM  
Dickinson College Diploma – June, 1910
- MIRIAM A. DUM FREY  
Dept. of Public Instruction Provisional College Certificate – Dec. 9, 1920
- MISCELLANEOUS  
Poster, “College Lad and Lassie Series” – 1908

## **PHOTOGRAPHS - PC 2007.5**

### DUM FAMILY PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM PAGES

- Folder 01) Blanche, Miriam, Ray, and parents – undated  
Blanche, Dickinson College commencement, and campers – undated  
Blanche, Miriam, Ray, and parents on porch – undated

## PHOTOGRAPHS - PC 2007.5 (cont.)

### MIRIAM A. DUM FREY

- Folder 02) 1913 50th Class Reunion – Jun. 1, 1963
- Miriam, Frances Willoughby, Elda McKeown – May 1983

### MISCELLANEOUS

- Folder 03) Freshman scrap [?] – c1907-1913
- Group of scrappers outside Bosler – c1907-1913
- Man and woman outside stone building – undated
- Woman and peacock, “Taken at Warwick Castle” – undated

This collection register was prepared by Alissa Zawoyski, December 2007.