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Perguson, Dee Carl, Jr., b. 1921 (MSS 8)

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Descriptive Inventory

MSS 8 PERGUSON, Dee Carl, Jr., 1921-2010

7 boxes. 59 folders. 1,281 items. 1934-2006. Originals, photocopies, photographs.

1990.141.1; 2006.201.1; 2009.126.1

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Dee Carl Perguson, Jr., was born in 1921 in Horse Branch, (Ohio County) Kentucky and was the only child of Dee Carl Perguson, Sr., 1894-1976, and Pearl Ruth (Rains) Perguson, 1894-1987. Dee's father was a merchant, operating his own general merchandise store in Horse Branch from 1923 to 1956. His mother Pearl was an active partner in the store, but the need for teachers during World War II was so critical that she resumed her schooling and attained a certificate entitling her to teach. This she did until retiring at the age of seventy.

Dee grew up in Horse Branch and attended both the local elementary and high school from which he received his diploma in 1938, graduating as valedictorian of his class at age sixteen. Although neither parent had attended college, it was understood that Dee would enter Western Kentucky State Teachers College in Bowling Green, Kentucky. He graduated from college with a B.A. in history in 1942; entered the army in 1943; had basic training at Camp Wheeler, Georgia; served overseas in North Africa and Italy; was wounded in action in Italy in January 1944; returned to the States and was a patient in Kennedy General Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. Before being discharged from the army in January 1946, Dee was assigned to returnee centers at Miami Beach, Florida, and Fort McPherson, Georgia. Continuing his education, Dee earned his M.A. in history at Indiana University in 1947. After teaching at Indiana University Center for two years, he spent a year at Manchester University in England on a Fulbright Scholarship. The majority of his time in the work place was focused on teaching history in a Seattle high school from 1960 until his retirement in 1981.

Dee traveled throughout much of the world, after retiring, and served on various committees and boards. He was active in Democratic politics, supporting human rights and civil rights causes at home and abroad. He maintained his residence in Seattle, especially enjoying the plant life and trees in his own yard; while also volunteering as a naturalist at a local park. He was a member of Seattle's University Unitarian Church from 25 October 1953 until his death 16 October 2010.

COLLECTION NOTE

The collection is centered on Perguson's correspondence and diaries. Of particular interest are his letters, mementos, and reminiscences relating to his World War II involvement. (Boxes 1 and 2) He writes to his parents in Horse Branch while stateside, as well as while serving in North Africa and Italy. He was injured while participating in the Rapido River Crossing. Additionally, there is a copy of a 2003 article "An Opportunity to Meet 'Every Kind of Person': A Kentuckian Views Army Life during World War II," written by Nancy D. Baird and based upon a portion of the Perguson Collection. (Box 2 folder 14)

Also of interest are the diaries Ferguson kept while a student at Western Kentucky State Teachers College, 1939-1943. In addition to details about daily college life, professors, and other students, the entries reveal his concern about the U.S. political situation, the war, and his decision to join the military. Notes are included with four of the diaries (Box 3).

The post-war portion of the collection chiefly contains Ferguson's correspondence with his parents (his mother after his father's death), who remained in Ohio County, as he returns to school, receives his master's degree, and secures a high-school teaching position in Seattle, Washington. Many of his letters concern his political activities, community involvement, and responsibilities as a member of a local Unitarian Universalist church (Boxes 4-6). Ferguson's mother's letters also reveal the active life she led, involving herself with the Methodist church, the local historical society, the local retired teachers organization, and the Order of the Eastern Star. Following his retirement in 1981, Ferguson participated in a Writing Your Own Life Story program, offered by the North Seattle Community College where he penned short essays relating to Horse Branch and his family (Box 2, folders 12 and 13).

The last box in the collection (Box 7) contains a folder of news clippings related to Ferguson's activities, the diary of his time as a Fulbright Scholar in Manchester, England, 1949-1950 and travel journals from trips to the Soviet Union, 1978 and Nicaragua, 1985.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	World War II letters and papers	1943-2006	285 items
Folder 1a	Descriptive Inventory and data	1987-2006; n.d.	11 items
Folder 1	Army official papers, publications, etc.	Feb. 8, 1943 - Oct. 29, 1945	16 items
Folder 2	Letters to parents from Fort Hayes, Ohio	Feb. 9-24, 1943	8 items
Folder 3	Letters to parents from Camp Wheeler, Georgia (includes 8 photos)	Feb. 26-July 29, 1943	48 items
Folder 4	Notes kept while traveling from the U.S. to North Africa, across Morocco and Algeria and on into southern Italy	July 28-Oct. 8, 1943	7 items
Folder 5	Letters to parents from North Africa	Aug. 7-Oct. 7, 1943	25 items
Folder 6	Letters to parents from Italy (before wounded)	Oct. 8-Nov. 30, 1943	21 items
Folder 7	Letters to parents from Italy (before wounded)	Dec. 1, 1943 – Jan. 19, 1944; n.d.	26 items
Folder 8	Letters to parents from Italy (wounded Jan. 21, 1944)	Jan. 23-Mar. 15, 1944	34 items
Folder 9	Letters to parents from Kennedy General Hospital, Memphis Tennessee	Apr. 17-Aug. 12, 1944	28 items

Folder 10	Letters to parents from Miami Beach, Florida	Sept. 7-Dec. 26, 1944	23 items
Folder 11	Letters to parents from Miami Beach, Florida	Jan.3-Sept. 24, 1945	38 items
BOX 2	World War II letters, essays, etc.	1941-2005	153 items
Folder 1	Letters to parents from McPherson, Georgia and Fort Knox, Kentucky	Nov. 20, 1945- Jan. 6, 1946	8 items
Folder 2	Letters to Dee from mother	Pre-Dec. 25, 1943- Feb. 9, 1944	5 items
Folder 3	Letters, etc., to Dee Carl Ferguson, Sr., from U.S. Army officials	Feb. 28, 1944- Apr. 2, 1945	6 items
Folder 4	Correspondence with Marjorie Clagett (includes photo)	Sept. 4, 1943- 1945; 1996	4 items
Folder 5	Letters from friends, chiefly	Nov. 8, 1943- Aug. 7, 1946; n.d.	19 items
Folder 6	Items from scrapbook kept by Ferguson	1942-1945	37 items
Folder 7	North African mementos	1941-1942; n.d.	4 items
Folder 8	Italian mementos	1943-1944	9 items
Folder 9	Photographs of Ferguson	Pre-Jan. 21, 1944; 1945	2 items
Folder 10	Post cards depicting WWII military life	1941-1945	11 items
Folder 11	Remembrances of WWII battles in Italy and ideas about integration	1946; 1997-1998	5 items
Folder 12	Essays about growing up in Horse Branch, Kentucky	1998-2005	33 items
Folder 13	Essays about Ferguson's family in Horse Branch, Kentucky	1998-2005	9 items
Folder 14	Article: "An Opportunity to Meet 'Every Kind of Person:'...", written by Nancy D. Baird and published in The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society 101:3 (Summer 2003): 297-318. (Based on Ferguson's collection.)	2003	1 item, 22 p.

BOX 3	Diaries and Reminiscences	1939-1947	45 items
Folder 1	Diary kept a while student at Western Kentucky State Teachers College	1939	4 items
Folder 2	Diary kept while a student at Western Kentucky State Teachers College	1940	3 items
Folder 3	Stray items found in 1940 diary	n.d.	5 items
Folder 4	Diary kept while a student at Western Kentucky State Teachers College	1941	3 items
Folder 5	Stray items found in 1941 diary	1941	8 items
Folder 6	Diary kept while a student at Western Kentucky State Teachers College	1942	3 items
Folder 7	Stray items found in 1942 diary	1942	10 items
Folder 8	Diary	1 Jan.-1 March 1943	3 items
Folder 9	Stray items removed from 1943 diary	1942-1947	6 items
BOX 4	Correspondence	1937-1978	281 items
Folder 1	Letters to Perguson, chiefly from his Australian pen pal	2 Nov. 1937- 2 Sept. 1939	12 items
Folder 2	Correspondence, chiefly letters to parents	25 March 1940- 23 Dec. 1949	56 items
Folder 3	Correspondence, chiefly between Perguson and mother	24 Jan. 1950- 9 Nov. 1959	45 items
Folder 4	Correspondence, chiefly letters to parents	23 April 1960- 5 Sept. 1969	28 items
Folder 5	Correspondence, chiefly between Perguson and mother	20 July 1970- 27 Dec. 1976	55 items
Folder 6	Correspondence, chiefly letters from mother	8 Jan. 1977- 29 Dec. 1977	28 items
Folder 7	Correspondence, chiefly between Perguson and mother	3 Jan. 1978- 30 Dec. 1978	57 items
BOX 5	Correspondence	1979-1985	223 items

Folder 1	Correspondence, chiefly letters from mother	1 Jan. 1979- [Dec. 1979?]	29 items
Folder 2	Correspondence, chiefly between Ferguson and mother	3 March 1980- 29 Dec. 1982	35 items
Folder 3	Correspondence, chiefly between Ferguson and mother	3 Jan. 1983- 27 Dec. 1983	45 items
Folder 4	Correspondence, chiefly letters from mother	[3 Jan. 1984?]- 30 Dec. 1984	24 items
Folder 5	Correspondence, chiefly between Ferguson and mother	7 Jan. 1985- 30 July 1985	45 items
Folder 6	Correspondence, chiefly between Ferguson and mother	5 August 1985- 31 Dec. 1985	45 items
BOX 6	Correspondence	1949-1997	206 items
Folder 1	Correspondence, chiefly between Ferguson and mother	6 Jan. 1986- 28 July 1986	43 items
Folder 2	Correspondence between Ferguson and mother	5 August 1986- 30 Dec. 1986	43 items
Folder 3	Correspondence, chiefly between Ferguson and mother	5 Jan. 1987- 17 Nov. 1987	68 items
Folder 4	Letters from Ferguson's mother	undated	19 items
Folder 5	Letters from Marjorie Clagett	23 Sept. 1988- 27 May 1997	12 items
Folder 6	Cards to Ferguson, chiefly from friends	undated	6 items
Folder 7	Letters to Ferguson's parents from family and friends	1 March 1949- 17 June 1987	15 items
BOX 7	Miscellaneous	1934-2002	88 items
Folder 1	Clippings	1934-2002	66 items
Folder 2	Miscellaneous	1941-1988	17 items
Folder 3	Journal kept while Fulbright Scholar	1949-1950	1 item

in England

Folder 4	Diary of tour of Soviet Union	1978	2 items
Folder 5	Diary of tour of Nicaragua	1985	2 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS PERGUSON, Dee Carl, Jr., 1921-2010 1934-2006
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Correspondence and diaries of Perguson, Horse Branch (Ohio County), Kentucky, and Seattle, Washington. Of interest are his letters written while serving in World War II in the United States, North Africa, and Italy, and his later memoirs of this period. Also of interest are diaries of his years as a student at Western Kentucky State Teachers College, 1939-1943. The collection also includes his recollections of growing up in Horse Branch in the 1920s and 1930s.

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SEE or SEE ALSO

Boot camp training

See:

Basic training (Military education)

Military basic training

See:

Basic training(Military education)

Lile/Jeffrey 12/2/2011