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Thornberry, Martine (Calhoun), 1905-1972 (MSS 179)

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Manuscript Collection Finding Aids. Paper 457.
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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
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Descriptive Inventory

MSS 179 THORNBERRY, Martine (Calhoun), 1905-1972

[See also SC 609]

1 box. 7 folders. 209 items. 1928-1957. Originals.

BIOGRAPHY

Martine Calhoun was born on October 15, 1905 in Heflin, Kentucky (McLean County) to Wilbur Stirman Calhoun and Edna H. (Hipsley) Calhoun. She attended the public schools in Livermore, Kentucky from 1910 to 1923 and then matriculated at Western Kentucky Teachers College in Bowling Green. In 1925 she received a "life" teaching certificate. She worked briefly as a teacher in North Carolina prior to teaching at Kettle Island, Kentucky from 1926 to 1927. She married H.H. Chiverton in June 1926, but the marriage was short-lived; her divorce from Chiverton was finalized on June 15, 1929.

In 1927 Chiverton moved to Cheyenne, South Dakota, where she taught second grade on a Sioux Indian reservation for the United States Department of Interior's Office of Indian Affairs. The following year, she taught school for the Fort Mojave Indian School in Mojave, Arizona. From 1928 to 1938 she was a teacher in various Indian schools in Arizona. On June 16, 1929, she married Charles B. Hankins in Gallup, New Mexico.

She returned to Kentucky in May 1938, where she worked for several years for the Honey Krust Bakery in Owensboro. On June 15, 1940, she divorced her second husband. In January 1941 she became a recreation leader for the Works Progress Administration in Owensboro. From September 1942 to May 1943, Calhoun worked as a topographic draftsman for the Army Map Service in Louisville, and on April 3, 1943, she was accepted in the U.S. Marine Corps; she was officially discharged on November 19, 1945. She remained in the Marine Reserves for many years.

After her military service, Calhoun returned to Western Kentucky State College to finish her Bachelors degree in education. She then went back west to work in several Indian schools in New Mexico. In 1950 she was appointed as postmistress for Livermore, Kentucky, a position she retained for many years. She married J.W. Thornberry on February 16, 1952.

COLLECTION

This collection is comprised chiefly of correspondence concerning Martine Calhoun Thornberry's military service, her government service as a WPA recreation leader in Kentucky and as a teacher on Indian reservations, and as postmistress at Livermore, Kentucky. Of particular interest is the folder containing information about her efforts to retain her postmistress position in the mid-1950s. This information corroborates material from an earlier accessioned collection (Small Collection 609). Artwork from her Indian students is included.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1		1928-1957; 209 items
Folder 1	Inventory, photographs, separation sheet	
Folder 2	Biographical information	1928-1947; 12 items
Folder 3	Recreation material from the New Deal	1942 18 items
Folder 4	Information about military service	1942-1957; 45 items
Folder 5	Indian school materials	1935-1949; 76 items
Folder 6	Drawings from Indian school	n.d. 30 items
Folder 7	Information about postmistress position, Livermore, Kentucky	1944-1957; 28 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS THORNBERRY, Martine (Calhoun), 1928-1957
179 1905-1972

Chiefly correspondence related to Martine Calhoun Thornberry's government service for the Works Progress Administration and as Indian reservation school teacher, and as postmistress at Livermore, Kentucky. Includes materials related to Thornberry's military service and artwork from her Indian students.

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SC2013.3.137

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Art and artists – Indians F6
Natcher, William Huston, 1909-1994 – Letters to, 1954-1957 F7
Political patronage, 1948-1957 F7
Politics – McLean County, 1948-1957 F7
Postal service – Appointment of employees, 1948-1957 F7
Postal service – McLean County, 1948-1957 F7
Teachers and teaching – Indians, 1927-1938, 1947-1950 F5&6
U.S. – Marine Corps – Women, 1943-1945, 1954 F4
Western Kentucky University – Alumni, 1947
Whitaker, John Albert, 1901-1951 – Correspondence, 1948-1951 F7
Works Projects Administration – Daviess County – Relating to, 1942 F3
Works Projects Administration – Henderson County – Relating to, 1942 F3

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