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Salyers, Mary Alice, 1910-1998 - Letters to (MSS 430)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
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Descriptive Inventory

MSS 430 SALYERS, Mary Alice, 1910-1998 – Letters to

½ box. 9 folders. 91 items. 1934-1936. Originals.

SC2012.2.24

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Mary Alice Salyers was born on 6 April 1910 to William L. and Sarah E. (Howe) Salyers in Carroll County, Kentucky. She attended Eastern Kentucky University and later the University of Kentucky, where she had worked as a reporter for the *Kentucky Kernel* newspaper. During the mid-1930s, she was the librarian at Somerset's Carnegie Library, which was operated in conjunction with the local schools. She was courted by several gentlemen in the mid-1930s. In 1939 she married one of her suitors, Richard Allen Hays, who worked for many years for Standard Oil. The couple eventually moved to Anchorage, Kentucky, where Mary worked as a librarian and English teacher from 1950 to 1976. She also ran the school newspaper, bookstore, and served as the principal's secretary at times. She was well known for her summer reading programs with elaborate themed displays to encourage children to read forty books by the end of the summer.

Mary was active in the Anchorage Presbyterian Church and was selected as the first female elder of that church in the 1970s. She was active in the Eastern Area Council, an organization promoting racial harmony and the needs of the disadvantaged in eastern Jefferson County. She also served as a volunteer librarian for many groups, and she drove for Meals on Wheels. She received the Bell Award for Outstanding Service in 1985.

Mary died on 18 July 1998 and was buried in the Harrods Creek Cemetery in Brownsboro, Kentucky.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists almost exclusively of courtship letters written to Mary Alice Salyers, Somerset, Kentucky, by various suitors including Charles Duke Payne, Richard A. Hays, and a person using the pseudonym Banker. Mr. Payne was a minister in Christian and Methodist Churches at Lexington, Marianna, Arkansas, and Houston, Texas. Hays worked for Standard Oil Company.

Two letters written by Salyers, a page from her 1934 journal, and a Christmas card by her are found in Folder 9.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Mary Alice Salyers – Letters to	1934-1936	91 items
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	Letters from Charles Duke Payne	Aug.-Dec. 1934	24 items
Folder 3	Letters from Charles Duke Payne	Jan.-Apr. 1935	17 items
Folder 4	Letters from Charles Duke Payne	May-Dec. 1935	15 items
Folder 5	Letters from Charles Duke Payne	1936	9 items
Folder 6	Letters from Richard A. Hays	1934-1935	16 items
Folder 7	Letters from Banker (no other name given)	1934-1936	9 items
Folder 8	Letters from others	1934-1935	10 items
Folder 9	Letters, journal entry, and Christmas card written by Mary Alice Salyers	1934-1935	4 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS SALYERS, Mary Alice, 1934-1936
430 1910-1998

Courtship letters sent to Mary Alice Salyers, Somerset, Kentucky from various suitors, chiefly Charles Duke Payne, a Christian minister and her future husband, Richard Allen Hays.

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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Arkansas – Travel and description F3
Cane Ridge Meeting House – Bourbon County – Comments about, 1934 F8
Chain letter F7
Christmas card, 1934 F8
Clergy F2-5

Christian Church – Clergy F2-5
 Courtship, 1930s
 Hays, Richard Allen, 1908-1998
 Hitler, Adolph, 1889-1945 – Mentioned F6
 Houston, Texas – Christian Church – Comments about F3-4
 Librarians
 Magnolia Park Christian Church – Houston, Texas – Relating to F3-4
 Marianna, Arkansas – Christian Church – Comments about B3
 Mexico – Travel and description, 1935 F7
 Payne, Charles Duke
 Rural Resettlement Administration – Mentioned, 1935 F8

SEE or SEE ALSO

Hays, Mary Alice (Salyers), 1910-1998
 See also:
 Salyers, Mary Alice, 1910-1998

Pruitt/Jeffrey 10/8/2012