

3-27-2009

## Willian, Ruth (Whitlow), 1886-1962 (MSS 243)

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*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 243 WILLIAN, Ruth (Whitlow), 1886-1962**

½ box. 6 folders. 73 items. 1905-1938.

1991.97.1

***BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE***

Mildred Ruth Whitlow was born in 1886 near the Oakland community in Warren County, Kentucky. Her parents were Alpheus and Elizabeth (Cole) Whitlow. She attended Western Kentucky State Normal and by 1910 was a school teacher in Buffalo, Larue County, Kentucky. There she met her future husband, John Edward Bruce Willian, a cashier with the Buffalo Savings Bank and a widower with four children. The 24 year old Ruth and the 52 year old Willian married in the fall of 1910. After his death in 1922 she married John Alex Bratton and lived the rest of her life in Warren County near Smiths Grove. Ruth died 28 July 1962. She is buried next to her second husband in the Smiths Grove Cemetery.

***COLLECTION***

This collection consists chiefly of letters written to Ruth (Whitlow) Willian from 1905 to 1920. The majority of the letters are lengthy 1910 courtship letters from her suitor, John Edward Bruce Willian, later her husband. His letter-writing, now focusing on their domestic affairs, continues after their marriage, during the times they are apart. Several affectionate letters from Ruth to her husband also are included, specifically those written to him while he was in the hospital in Louisville in 1920. Other collection materials include a 1930s Valentine as well as letters to Nettie Settle; and birth, death, and marriage records from the Gunderman family Bible.

***SHELF LIST***

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>1905-1938</b>	<b>73 items</b>
Folder 1      Inventory		1 item

Folder 2	Correspondence between Ruth Whitlow and J.E.B. Willian	28 Feb. 1910- 28 Dec, 1910	24 items
Folder 3	Letters to Ruth (Whitlow) Willian, chiefly from her husband	1911-1920	24 items
Folder 4	Letters to Ruth (Whitlow) Willian from family and friends; letters from Ruth to her husband	1905-1909	17 items
Folder 5	Gunderman family Bible pages	n.d.	2 items
Folder 6	Letters and Valentine to Nettie Settle	1934-1938	5 items

### ***BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD***

MSS WILLIAN, Ruth (Whitlow), 1905-1938  
243 1886-1962

Chiefly letters to Ruth from John Edwin Bruce Willian, both before and after their 1910 marriage.

½ box. 6 folders. 73 items

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### ***SUBJECT ANALYTICS***

Courtship, 1910 F2  
 Genealogy – Gunderman family F5  
 Letterheads – Larue County – Buffalo Savings Bank F2-3  
 Marriage – Letters, 1911-1920 F3, 4  
 Settle, Nettie – Letters to F6  
 Shobe, Mrs. E. A. – Relating to F4  
 Valentines, [1930s] F6  
 Whitlow, Alpheus, 1834-1909 – Relating to F4  
 Whitlow, Elizabeth (Cole), 1841-1928 F3-4  
 Willian, John Edwin Bruce, 1858-1922 – Correspondence, 1910-1920 F2-4  
 Willian, Ruby – Relating to F3, 4  
 Willian, Ruth (Whitlow), 1886-1962 – Correspondence, 1910-1920 F2-4

**SEE CARD**

Willian, Mildred Ruth (Whitlow)

See:

Willian, Ruth (Whitlow)

Bratton, Ruth (Whitlow)

See:

Willian, Ruth (Whitlow)

Lile/Jeffrey 03/27/2009