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Robertson, Gabrielle, 1889-1970 (MSS 323)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
 Department of Library Special Collections
 Kentucky Library & Museum
 Western Kentucky University
 Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 323 ROBERTSON, Gabrielle, 1889-1970

2 boxes. 32 folders. 477 items. 1861-1984. Originals and photocopies.

1970.18.1

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Gabrielle Robertson was born 8 December 1889 in Muhlenberg County, Kentucky, to Charles Albert Robertson and his second wife, Cassandra Ann (Jackson) Robertson. She was the second of their seven children. Miss Robertson received a teacher's Life Certificate from Western Kentucky State Normal School in 1912, the A.B. degree from Indiana University in 1917, and her M.A. degree from the University of Chicago in 1920. Additionally, she studied at the University of London in 1925 and pursued research at the Library of Congress in 1927-1928.

"Miss Gabie," as she was known to her students, began teaching classes in the History Department at Western Kentucky State Normal School in 1916 and continued there until her retirement in 1960, at that time the school had become Western Kentucky State College. It is today Western Kentucky University. She was known to hold her students to exceedingly high standards and endeavored to inspire in them her own love for history. She took a personal interest in her students which continued long after their graduation.

Miss Gabie saw the need to supplement her Kentucky History and Southern History courses with primary source materials and began a collection that became the foundation of the Manuscripts Department of the Kentucky Library and Museum on Western's campus. Over the years she personally donated books and monies to further the growth of this library. In her honor, former student Charles Roy Martin established the Gabrielle Robertson Kentucky Library Fund for the purchase of rare Kentucky documents.

Gabrielle Robertson never married. She died 11 January 1970 in Owensboro, Kentucky and is buried with other family members in Pine Grove Cemetery, near South Carrollton in Muhlenberg County. After her death, a room in the Kentucky Library was named in her honor.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists primarily of letters written to Gabrielle Robertson from 1912 to 1969. Box 1 of the two-box collection contains letters from family, friends, and former students; items related to her professional career; letters related to her activities on behalf of the Kentucky Library; genealogical material dealing chiefly with the McReynolds and Robertson families; and

family photographs. The letters in Box 2 cover only the period from 1943 to 1946. Much of this correspondence comes from her former students serving in the military during World War II. The letters reflect the writers' attachment to the Western Kentucky State Teachers College campus community, a desire to return to the "Hill" to finish their degrees, and their hopes for a lasting postwar peace. Many of these former students write seeking "Miss Gabie's" assessments of the political and social situations in the U.S. and the world. The last folder of the second box contains letters from multiple correspondents; they are arranged alphabetically by the correspondent's last name rather than strictly chronologically. Several postwar letters from these same former students can be found in Box 1.

SHELF LIST

| BOX 1 | ROBERTSON, Gabrielle | 1861-1984 | 311 items |
|--------------|---|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Folder 1 | Inventory and collection notes | | 10 items |
| Folder 2 | Correspondence | 24 July 1912- 5 Aug. 1949 | 48 items |
| Folder 3 | Correspondence | 25 Feb. 1950- 27 Sept. 1959 | 27 items |
| Folder 4 | Correspondence | 10 March 1960- 23 Dec. 1967 | 45 items |
| Folder 5 | Correspondence | 5 Jan. 1968- 12 Sept. 1969 | 52 items |
| Folder 6 | Materials related to European trip | March-Oct., 1925 | 8 items |
| Folder 7 | Letters of introduction related to research at War Department | August 1928 | 2 items |
| Folder 8 | Correspondence related to illness and death of Miss Robertson | January 1970 | 10 items |
| Folder 9 | Membership cards and certificates | 29 Sept. 1917- 30 Sept. 1969 | 11 items |
| Folder 10 | Anonymous student writings about Miss Robertson | n.d. | 3 items |

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|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Folder 11 | Condolence letters received by Arry (Robertson) McReynolds, Miss Robertson's half-sister | October 1947 | 8 items |
| Folder 12 | Photocopy of will of C. F. Robertson | 1874 | 1 item |
| Folder 13 | Genealogical materials related to Jackson, Landrum, Metcalf, Randolph, and Robertson families | 16 Feb. 1923- 15 Dec. 1956 | 37 items |
| Folder 14 | Items related to the McReynolds family | 31 May 1886- [1964?] | 8 items |
| Folder 15 | Legal papers of McReynolds and Robertson families | 22 April 1861- 20 Jan. 1948 | 10 items |
| Folder 16 | Photos | 1893-1968 | 27 items |
| Folder 17 | Original plaque dedicating room in Kentucky Building to Miss Robertson; letter | 1 June 1984 | 2 items |
| Folder 18 C1-D4 F9 | "President's Charge," University of Chicago; Masonic certificate, T.V. McReynolds | 1920-1921 | 2 items |
| Box 2 | ROBERTSON, Gabrielle | 1943-1946 | 166 items |
| Folder 1 | Letters from Gayle Raymond Carver | 6 Jan. 1943- 23 May 1944 | 4 items |
| Folder 2 | Letters from Basil E. Craddock; one from John P. Hanes | 18 July 1943- 10 May 1946 | 27 items |
| Folder 3 | Letters from George W. Harrison | 26 June 1945- 12 Oct. 1946 | 14 items |
| Folder 4 | Letters from Lowell Harrison | 7 March 1943- 21 July 1946 | 27 items |
| Folder 5 | Letters from George Kackley | 7 March 1943- 21 July 1946 | 4 items |

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|-----------|--|---------------------------------|----------|
| Folder 6 | Letters from Robert Burns Klick | 15 July 1943- 9 Oct. 1944 | 8 items |
| Folder 7 | Letters from Robert Y. McGehee | 24 March 1944- 26 April 1945 | 6 items |
| Folder 8 | Letters from Ben F. Reeves | 31 Dec. 1942- 27 Jan. 1946 | 4 items |
| Folder 9 | Letters from Joe M. and Virginia Robertson | 20 Jan. 1943- 10 Aug. 1946 | 24 items |
| Folder 10 | Letters from J.V. Rosser | 12 Oct. 1942- 29 July 1945 | 6 items |
| Folder 11 | Letters from James Stickles | 19 May 1944- 30 Dec. 1945 | 13 items |
| Folder 12 | Letters from John V. Yarbrough | 16 March 1944- 2 Dec. 1945 | 7 items |
| Folder 13 | Letters from miscellaneous correspondents | 2 June 1943- 25 July 1946 | 32 items |

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS ROBERTSON, Gabrielle, 1889-1970 1861-1984
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Chiefly letters to Miss Robertson, History Department faculty member, Western Kentucky University, 1916 to 1960. Of particular interest are those letters from former students serving in the military during World War II. Also includes genealogical materials and family photographs.

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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Carver, Gayle Raymond, 1913-2005 B2,F1
Cherry, Henry Hardin, 1864-1937 B1,F2
Christmas cards, 1943-1945 B1,F2; B2,F8-9,11-2
Clagett, Marjorie, 1900-2000 – Mentioned B1,F2

Clark, Thomas Dionysius, 1903-2005 B1,F2
 Cochran, Robert Gilmore, 1919-1971 B1,F3,4; B2,F13
 Consolation, 1947 B1,F11
 Coombs, Elizabeth, 1893-1988 B1,F4
 Craddock, Basil E., [1923?]-1987 B1,F3; B2,F2
 Davis, Virginia Wood, 1919-1990 B1,F4
 Deeds – Butler County, 1913 B1,F15
 Deeds – Indian Territory, 1904, 1906 B1,F15
 Dickey, John E. B1,F2,4; B2,F13
 Dodd, William Edward, 1869-1940 B1,F2
 Downing, Dero Goodman, b. 1921 B1,F4
 Eisenhower, Dwight David, 1890-1969 – Mentioned B1,F2,3
 Elections and election campaigns – U.S., 1948 – Comments about B1,F2
 Elections and election campaigns – U.S., 1960 – Comments about B1,F4
 Elections and election campaigns – U.S., 1968 – Comments about B1,F5
 Franklin, C. Ray, d. 1985 B1,F4
 Funeral invitation, 1895 B1,F14
 Genealogy – Jackson family B1,F13 subfolder 1,2
 Genealogy – Landrum family B1,F13 subfolder 3
 Genealogy – Metcalf family B1,F13 subfolder 4
 Genealogy – Randolph family B1,F13 subfolder 4
 Genealogy – Robertson family B1,F13 subfolder 4
 George VI, King of Great Britain – Death – Comments about B1,F3
 Germany – Photos, 1945 B2,F13
 Goodman, Julian, b. 1922 B1,F4
 Griffith, Harriet Henry (Stickles) B1,F5,8
 Hanes, John P. B2,F2
 Harrison, George W. B1,F2,4; B2,F3
 Harrison, Lowell Hayes, b. 1922 B1,F1-4; B2,F4
 Henlein, Konrad Ernst Eduard, 1898-1945 – Relating to B2,F2
 Indiana University – Relating to B1,F5,9
 Integration and segregation, Racial – Comments about, 1957-1960 B1,F3-4
 Japan – Photos, 1946 B2,F13
 Jillson, Willard Rouse, 1890-1975 B1,F2
 Kackley, George B1,F2,3; B2,F5
 Kentucky Library and Museum –Relating to B1,F2-5,17
 Klick, Robert Burns, d. 1944 B2,F6
 Korea – Comments about, 1945-1946 B2,F3
 Korea – Comments about, 1954-1957 B1,F3
 Krock, Arthur, 1886-1974 B1,F5
 Lancaster, Lennie Young, 1886-1974 B1,F5
 Legal papers – Robertson family B1,F12,15
 McCarthy, Joseph, 1908-1957 – Comments about, 1950 B1,F3
 McLaughlin, Andrew Cunningham, 1861-1947 B1,F2
 McReynolds, Arry (Robertson) – Letters to B1,F11
 McReynolds family – Relating to B1,F14

McReynolds, Thomas Virgil, d.1947 – Relating to B1,F11,14-15,18
 Marriage record – Daviess County, 1916 B1,F15
 Marriage record – Muhlenberg County, 1935 B1,F15
 Masons (Fraternal organization) – Butler County, 1921 B1,F18
 Martin, Charles Roy B1,F4,5
 Martin, Charles Roy – Relating to B1,F4,5
 Natcher, William Huston, 1904-1994 B1,F4
 Neal, Mary Julia, 1905-1995 B1,F4,5
 Offner, Arnold A. B1,F4
 Ogden College – Relating to, 1902 B1,F4
 Petroleum industry and trade – Muhlenberg County – Relating to, 1966 B1,F4
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 Reeves, Ben F. B1,F3,4; B2,F8
 Robertson, Absalom Willis , 1887-1971 B1,F2
 Robertson, Beckham Alfred, 1900-1978 B1,F4-5
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 Robertson, Joe M. B1,F2,3; B2,F9
 Robertson, Virginia B1,F2,4; B2,F9
 Roosevelt, Franklin Delano, Pres. U.S., 1882-1945 – Death – Mentioned B2,F4
 Rosser, J. V. B2,F10
 Sackett, Frederic Mosley, 1868-1941 B1,F7
 Stickles, Arndt Mathias, 1872-1968 – Mentioned B1,F2-5; B2
 Stickles, James Channing, b. 1923 B2,F11
 Thompson, Edwin Kelly, 1909-1993 B1,F4,5
 Thompson, Sarah B1,F8
 U.S. Army – 3rd Armored Division – Relating to B2,F9
 U.S. Army – 104th Infantry Division – Relating to B2,F4
 University of Chicago – Relating to B1,F2,5,9,18
 Watts, Virginia B1,F2
 Western Kentucky State Teachers College – Relating to B1,F2-5; B2
 Wills – Butler County, 1861 B1,F15
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 Wilson, Gordon, 1888-1970 B1,F5
 Woodson, James Albert, 1856-1943 B1,F2
 World War II, 1939-1945 – African Americans – Comments about B2,F2,4
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Lile/Jeffrey 07/26/2010