McGuirk, Martha (Stiles), 1937-2023 - Collector (MSS 618)

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Descriptive Inventory

MSS 618  McGUIRK, Martha (Stiles), 1937-2023 – Collector

½ box.  7 folders.  27 items.  1899-1942.  Originals and photocopies.

SC2017.70.1

COLLECTION NOTE

This eclectic collection of items was assembled by Martha McGuirk, who grew up in the Bristow, Kentucky area. She was born on 17 March 1937, the daughter of Eura and Margie Stiles. She lived the majority of her life in northeastern Warren County, Kentucky. After graduation from Bristow High School, she worked for American National Bank. She married James “Jim” W. McGuirk and they resided in a historic home called “Smoky Row” on Highway 68-80 outside of Smiths Grove. She attended the Smiths Grove Presbyterian Church and was active in the Woman’s Club of Smiths Grove, served on the board of directors of the Smiths Grove library, and was a member of the Landmark Association. The collection includes a baby book kept for Martha by her mother (Folder 5) and some letters earned by Martha as a cheerleader at Bristow High School (Folder 6).

The remainder of the collection chiefly relates to William Thomas Beard, who lived at Smoky Row prior to the McGuirks, as well as members of the Kirby family, who had also lived at Smoky Row. Folder 2 includes correspondence, chiefly letters written to William T. Beard from friends and family. Also included is an interesting 1929 letter from L. Cass Miller to his former bank employer, Robert Kirby. In the letter, Miller describes living in Florida, the tourist trade, the propagation of sugar cane, and the general development of St. Petersburg as an air transportation hub. The last item in Folder 2 is a letter probably written in dialect about an African American woman, who is subject to her mean tempered husband’s tirades. Folder 3 includes holographic home remedies and prescriptions kept by Mabel (Kirby) Beard, beginning in 1906. The pages also include a small amount of poetry and some food recipes, including a recipe for blackberry wine. Folder 4 includes two speeches, probably prepared by W.T. Beard, for an alumni banquet, as well as two short photocopied news clippings by columnist James Tandy Ellis, a receipt from a Smiths Grove mercantile operation, a piece of Smoky Row Thanksgiving stationery, and a small political pamphlet titled Smiths Grove Greyhound related to a 1915 city council election in Smiths Grove. Folder 7 includes a membership book for the Unity Lodge (#95) of the Ancient Order of United Workmen in Smiths Grove.

Some photographs of William T. Beard and Smoky Row, an auction broadside for Smoky Row, and several postcards were transferred to the Kentucky Library Research Collections.
**SHELF LIST**

**BOX 1**  
Martha McGuirk – Collector  
1899-1942  
27 items

Folder 1  
Inventory  
1 item

Folder 2  
Correspondence – Chiefly of William T. Beard  
1927-1942  
10 items

Folder 3  
Prescriptions and remedies, some poetry  
1906  
3 items

Folder 4  
Speeches of William T. Beard, receipt, news clippings, vault combination, political newsletter  
1905-1915  
7 items

Folder 5  
Baby book for Martha Stiles  
1937  
1 item

Folder 6  
Letters for cheerleading at Bristow High School  
n.d.  
4 items

Folder 7  
A.O.U.W. Lodge 95, Smiths Grove  
1899-1901  
1 item

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS  
McGUIRK, Martha (Stiles), 1899-1942  
618  
1937-2023 – Collector

Chiefly correspondence, speeches, and ephemera related to William Thomas Beard of Smiths Grove, Kentucky; prescriptions, remedies, and recipes collected by Mabel Kirby; and a baby book and cheerleading letters that belonged to Martha (Stiles) McGuirk.  
1 box. 7 folders. 27 items. Originals and photocopies.  
SC2017.70.1

**SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

African Americans – Relating to  
F2

Allen, Isabella Ann (Beard), 1864-1958  
F2

Ancient Order of United Workmen – Smiths Grove  
F7

Baby books – McGuirk, Martha (Stiles), 1937  
F5
Beard, Mabel (Kirby), 1880-1948 – Relating to   F3
Beard, William Thomas, 1908-1975   F2,4
Benevolent societies   F7
Bristow High School – Relating to   F6
Cheerleading – Relating to   F6
Colorado – Travel and description, 1928   F2
Elections and election campaigns – Smiths Grove, 1915 – Relating to   F4
Ellis, James Tandy, 1868-1942 – Relating to   F4
Farmers Bank – Smiths Grove – Relating to   F4
Florida – Travel and description, 1929   F2
Historic houses – “Smoky Row” – Smiths Grove – Relating to   F4
Kirby, Elmina (Kirby), 1853-1950   F2
Kirby, James Robert, 1888-1929 – Letter to   F2
McGuirk, Martha (Stiles), 1937-2023 – Relating to   F5-6
Miller, L. Cass   F2
Poetry   F3
Prescriptions and remedies   F3
Recipes   F3
Speeches, addresses, etc.   F4
Students – Letters   F2
Sugar cane – Mentioned   F2
World War II, 1939-1945 – Mentioned   F2

SEE and SEE ALSO

Kirby, Mabel, 1880-1948
 See:
 Beard, Mabel (Kirby), 1880-1948

Stiles, Martha, 1937-2023
 See:
 McGuirk, Martha (Stiles), 1937-2023

Jeffrey   08/03/2017