

Lilith Morton Collection 5.

Miscellaneous keepsakes special to Lilith (Morton) Elliott.

Lilith Annastasia Morton was born 13 March 1884 in Mortons Gap, Kentucky, the third of seven children born to Mandelbert Mansfield Morton and Melvina England Fugate. Her father, Bert Morton, was a successful farmer who raised tobacco and lived on a farm outside Mortons Gap, Kentucky. Bert Morton, was 48 when he married her mother who had been 28 at their marriage. Lilith's mother, Melvina and her baby brother, Simon, died in June 1890 when Lilith was six years old. Bert's unmarried sister, Huldah, came to live with the family in Mortons Gap and helped to raise Bert's six surviving children.

Lilith was introduced to John William Elliott by Will Lovan in November 1901. John William Elliott, born 31 October 1877 in Franklin County, Illinois, was a telegraph operator for the railroad working in Earlington, Kentucky. Lilith's father liked John but thought their relationship was moving too fast. He did not give permission for her to marry. John and Lilith eloped in June 1901 marrying on 19 June 1902 in Carmi, Illinois. John and Lilith Elliott had seven children.



Lilith and John Elliott, late 1940s.

John and Lilith Elliott lived in many locations. John worked in many jobs including serving as a Baptist minister in multiple congregations in Muhlenberg and Hopkins County, Kentucky. Their final home was in Nortonville, Kentucky. John died on 21 August 1956 in Greenville, Kentucky. Lilith died 12 December 1973 in Madisonville, Kentucky. They were both buried in the Unity Baptist Church Cemetery in Muhlenberg County, Kentucky next to their daughter, Mildred.

Mrs. Lilith (Morton) Elliott carried a small box throughout her life containing letters and papers. Upon her death on 12 December 1973, the box came into the possession of her daughter, Mrs. Johnnye (Elliott) Gill. Mrs. Gill passed them to her grand daughter, Gail Jackson Miller (425 Midcrest Drive, Bowling Green, Kentucky). The original letters are currently (2020) in the possession of Mrs. Miller.

Lilith's box contained letters dating from 1897 through 1914. The letters included correspondence and notes from friends, relatives, girlhood boyfriends, and more serious suitors. The letters from her future husband show the progression of their relationship from their introduction to their plans to elope. Later letters from her husband show their movements and difficulties during their early years of marriage.

Lilith's box contained several other keepsakes. It contained a small, red leather wallet containing various receipts and financial papers. These appear to be from her father, Mandelbert Mansfield Morton's papers. The wallet also contained a small, ivory-handled knife. The box also contained

a photograph of her father taken prior to the Civil War and a small pin with a photograph of Bishop Kelly. There were also calling cards, post cards, and a bundle of small pieces of material probably from special items of clothing.

The Lilith Morton Collection has been divided into five parts:

Collection 1, The Teen Year Letters, 1897 through December 1900;

Collection 2, The Courtship Period, November 1901 through June 1902;

Collection 3, The Early Married Years, July 1902 through October 1914;

Collection 4, Keepsakes and papers pertaining to Lilith's father, Mandelbert Mansfield Morton [1832-1913]; and

Collection 5, Miscellaneous keepsakes special to Lilith Morton.

Collection 5 contains the following items:

Item 1. Calling cards; Priscilla M. Thomas and Margaret Walker.

Item 2. Nelson - Whitworth wedding announcement, 1870. This would have occurred prior to Lilith's birth. This could have been part of her mother's or her father's possessions.

Item 3. Bishop Kelly pin. The identity of the young man shown on the pin was revealed in Letter 40 of Collection 2. When the pin was sent, apparently with the letter dated 7 February 1902, Bishop Kelly was living in Jackson, Mississippi. He reminded Lilith of their previous relationship and how he missed her. At that point, Lilith was already discussing marriage to John William Elliott. According to later letters from John Elliott, Bishop Kelly came home to see Lilith a short time later.

Item 4. Christmas related memories. These included an envelope with a postmark 24 December 1884 from Brooklyn, New York; a card from M. K. & T Railroad, 1905; and a greeting from M. B. Tull.

Item 5. Valentine from Susie Capp.

Item 6. Correspondence. Envelope postmarked 12 July 1907, St. Louis, Mo addressed to Mrs. J. W. Elliott from John; poem from Lizzie Sisk at St. Vincent's Academy; telegraph from John to Lilith; Morse Code written out by John Elliott; postcard from John to Mrs. J. W. Elliott; part of letter 1 unknown writer; and part of letter 2 unknown writer.

Item 7. A keepsake booklet was constructed containing fabric. The outside was decorated heavy paper stock with red cushioning material attached as part of a small home-made booklet. Inside there was a black ribbon and a piece of white eyelet cotton that appeared to be the treasured items.