12-18-2009

Hall, Dorthie A. (MSS 295)

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Dorthie Anne Hall, a native of Stearns, Kentucky, earned a bachelor’s degree in English from Western Kentucky State Teachers College in 1942 and a master’s degree in education in 1943. While at Western, she was on the staff of the school’s newspaper, the College Heights Herald, serving as editor from 1942-1943. After graduating from Western, she taught high school English before joining the faculty of Northwest Missouri State Teachers College in Maryville, Missouri. Though raised as a Baptist, in January 1950 Hall was baptized in the Catholic faith and began teaching English and literature at St. Joseph’s Academy in Chillicothe, Missouri. Hall moved to Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge in 1962, but returned to religious life in 1978 and took her vows in 1980. As “Sister Dorthie Anne,” she published poetry and taught English and literature at Donnelly College in Kansas City, Kansas from 1978-1991. After her resignation from college teaching, Hall became a volunteer teacher of GED classes with the Community Action Partnership program in Savannah, Missouri.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists almost exclusively of letters written to Dorthie Ann Hall, when she was a senior and graduate student at Western Kentucky State College, Bowling Green, Kentucky, 1942-1943, and as a young teacher in Federalsburg, Maryland. The letters, written by former male students at Western, tell about military life and the experiences of these young men as they traversed the globe during World War II. Two correspondents are of particular interest: Bill Bassett (Folder 2) and Bert J. Borrone (Folder 3). Bassett, a student from Cincinnati, was in the U.S. Army Air Corps when he was killed in a training accident in Phoenix, Arizona. Bassett wrote Hall approximately 60 letters. Included with his correspondence is his obituary and a letter from his mother to Hall in which she expresses her appreciation for Hall’s concern. Borrone’s letters discuss his tenure as a member of the 2625th Signal Service Regiment, 1st Battalion, Company B stationed in Algiers during the war. Borrone was from Bowling Green, and his letters ask about family members, campus happenings and community personalities. His correspondence consists of 113 letters and V-Mails. Throughout the
collection, the letters discuss military life and question Hall about happenings at Western and in Bowling Green. Because the collection spans several years, it includes Christmas and other holiday cards.

All staples have been removed from items in the collection. The letters were sorted and placed in folders alphabetically by the correspondent. Correspondents with only one letter were placed together in Folder 13 and sorted alphabetically by name. Small V-Mails were photocopied and added to the individual folders; the original V-Mails were placed in Folder 14 in chronological order.

**SHELF LIST**

**BOX 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Correspondent</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hall, Dorthie A. – Letters to</td>
<td>1941-1945</td>
<td>306 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bassett, Bill – Letters from</td>
<td>1942-1944</td>
<td>63 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Borrone, Bert J. – Letters from</td>
<td>1941-1945</td>
<td>114 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Brite, Murrel – Letters from</td>
<td>1943</td>
<td>2 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Burkhead, Harold L. – Letters from</td>
<td>1943</td>
<td>3 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Harrison, Lowell H. – Letters from</td>
<td>1943-1944</td>
<td>4 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Marshall, Benton H. – Letters from</td>
<td>1943-1944</td>
<td>3 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Murray, James T. – Letters from</td>
<td>1943</td>
<td>3 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Sisk, Mack – Letters from</td>
<td>1943</td>
<td>4 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Wallace, George O., Jr. – Letters from</td>
<td>1943</td>
<td>2 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Whitaker, David B. – Letters from</td>
<td>1943-1944</td>
<td>16 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Woods, Zilman C. – Letters from</td>
<td>1943</td>
<td>7 items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Folder 13  Other correspondents  1943  7 items
Folder 14  V-Mail originals  1944-1945  78 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS HALL, Dorthie A.  1941-1945
295
Letters written to Hall, student and editor of the
College Heights Herald at Western Kentucky Teachers
College, Bowling Green, Kentucky, during World War II.
The male correspondents are all former students from
Western, and they describe military life in their specific
locations around the world. They all express devotion to
Western and ask for details and comment about the
school, sports teams, and the Bowling Green community.
1/2 box. 306 items. Originals.
2009.4.172

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Western Kentucky State Teachers College – Relating to, 1941-1945
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World War II, 1939-1945 – Casualties, 1944   F2
World War II, 1939-1945 - Letters
World War II, 1939-1945 – Military life
Writing – Comments about   F9

SEE or SEE ALSO

Bassett, Bill
See:
   Bassett, William R., 1925?-1944

Sisk, Mack
See:
   Sisk, Preston McAllister

Jeffrey  12/18/2009