10-8-2012

Salyers, Mary Alice, 1910-1998 - Letters to (MSS 430)

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Mary Alice Salyers was born on 6 April 1910 to William L. and Sarah E. (Howe) Saylers in Carroll County, Kentucky. She attended Eastern Kentucky University and later the University of University of Kentucky, where she had worked as a reporter for the Kentucky Kernel newspaper. During the mid-1930s, she was the librarian at Somerset’s Carnegie Library, which was operated in conjunction with the local schools. She was courted by several gentlemen in the mid-1930s. In 1939 she married one of her suitors, Richard Allen Hays, who worked for many years for Standard Oil. The couple eventually moved to Anchorage, Kentucky, where Mary worked as a librarian and English teacher from 1950 to 1976. She also ran the school newspaper, bookstore, and served as the principal’s secretary at times. She was well known for her summer reading programs with elaborate themed displays to encourage children to read forty books by the end of the summer.

Mary was active in the Anchorage Presbyterian Church and was selected as the first female elder of that church in the 1970s. She was active in the Eastern Area Council, an organization promoting racial harmony and the needs of the disadvantaged in eastern Jefferson County. She also served as a volunteer librarian for many groups, and she drove for Meals on Wheels. She received the Bell Award for Outstanding Service in 1985.

Mary died on 18 July 1998 and was buried in the Harrods Creek Cemetery in Brownsboro, Kentucky.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists almost exclusively of courtship letters written to Mary Alice Salyers, Somerset, Kentucky, by various suitors including Charles Duke Payne, Richard A. Hays, and a person using the pseudonym Banker. Mr. Payne was a minister in Christian and Methodist Churches at Lexington, Marianna, Arkansas, and Houston, Texas. Hays worked for Standard Oil Company.

Two letters written by Saylers, a page from her 1934 journal, and a Christmas card by her are found in Folder 9.
SHELF LIST

BOX 1  Mary Alice Salyers – Letters to  1934-1936  91 items

Folder 1  Inventory  1 item
Folder 3  Letters from Charles Duke Payne  Jan.-Apr. 1935  17 items
Folder 4  Letters from Charles Duke Payne  May-Dec. 1935  15 items
Folder 5  Letters from Charles Duke Payne  1936  9 items
Folder 6  Letters from Richard A. Hays  1934-1935  16 items
Folder 7  Letters from Banker  1934-1936  9 items
        (no other name given)
Folder 8  Letters from others  1934-1935  10 items
Folder 9  Letters, journal entry, and Christmas card  1934-1935  4 items
        written by Mary Alice Salyers

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS  SALYERS, Mary Alice,  1934-1936
430  1910-1998

Courtship letters sent to Mary Alice
Salyers, Somerset, Kentucky from various
suitors, chiefly Charles Duke Payne, a Christian
minister and her future husband, Richard Allen
Hays.
½ box.  9 folders.  91 items.  Originals.
SC2012.2.24

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Arkansas – Travel and description    F3
Cane Ridge Meeting House – Bourbon County – Comments about, 1934    F8
Chain letter    F7
Christmas card, 1934    F8
Clergy    F2-5
Christian Church – Clergy  F2-5
Courtship, 1930s
Hays, Richard Allen, 1908-1998
Hitler, Adolph, 1889-1945 – Mentioned  F6
Houston, Texas – Christian Church – Comments about  F3-4
Librarians
Magnolia Park Christian Church – Houston, Texas – Relating to  F3-4
Marianna, Arkansas – Christian Church – Comments about  B3
Mexico – Travel and description, 1935  F7
Payne, Charles Duke
Rural Resettlement Administration – Mentioned, 1935  F8

SEE  or SEE ALSO

Hays, Mary Alice (Salyers), 1910-1998
See also:
Salyers, Mary Alice, 1910-1998

Pruitt/Jeffrey  10/8/2012