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Lissauer, Mildred Wallis (Potter), 1897-1998 - Collector (MSS 482)

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Descriptive Inventory

MSS 482 LISSAUER, Mildred Wallis (Potter), 1897-1998 – Collector

17 boxes. 184 folders. 3,116 items. 1856-1998.
 Originals, photocopies, photographs, color slides.

1977.37.3

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Mildred Wallis (Potter) Lissauer's grandfather, John Dysart Woods, was born in Brownsville, Tennessee on 21 October 1830 and lived in Kentucky, Arkansas, and Mississippi. In 1853, he married Margaret J. McCaleb in Wahalak, Mississippi. Over a few short weeks in 1863, however, Woods endured the deaths of Margaret and their three young daughters from diphtheria. A son, Thomas Rawlings Woods, survived, only to die in 1883 of typhoid fever.

In 1864, John D. Woods married his second wife, Martha Allen "Pattie" Moseley (1836-1906), the daughter of William Armstead Moseley and Eliza Fowler Mitchell. They became the parents of four children: Elizabeth Moseley "Bethie" Woods, John Golding "Jack" Woods, and twins Mildred Wallis "Minna" Woods and Martha Allen "Patty" Woods. In 1871, the family moved from Mississippi to Glasgow, Kentucky, where Woods's father, Reverend Hervey Woods, had once held a pastorate. Though trained as a physician, John Woods entered newspaper work and became editor of the *Glasgow Times*. In 1883, the family moved to Bowling Green, Kentucky, where Woods became editor of the *Bowling Green Gazette*. The following year, he became Public Printer and editor of the *Frankfort Capital*. After his return to Bowling Green in 1888, Woods edited the *Warren County Courier* and the *Times-Journal*. He also served in the state legislature. John D. Woods died in Bowling Green on 13 May 1906 and his wife Martha died on 5 July 1906. Both were buried in Bowling Green's Fairview Cemetery.

Elizabeth Moseley Woods, the daughter of John D. Woods and Martha (Moseley) Woods, was born on 7 January 1865 in Wahalak, Mississippi. Following her family's move to Kentucky, she received her A. B. degree from Glasgow's Liberty College in 1882. In 1900, she accompanied her friends Charlotte Whitehead and Margaret (Whitehead) Robertson to England, beginning a period of world travel and study in England, France, Italy and Switzerland. She also studied at the University of Chicago and Columbia University and continued to enjoy travel throughout her life. In 1912, Elizabeth Woods joined the faculty of the modern languages department of the Western Kentucky State Normal School (now WKU), serving as department head for 26 years. She also became known for her involvement in campus gardens and beautification projects, which continued after her retirement from teaching in 1937. After about

three years of declining health and failing eyesight, Elizabeth Woods died on 29 September 1967 at age 102 and was buried in Fairview Cemetery. (For a related collection, see MSS 25 WOODS, Elizabeth Moseley.)

Martha Allen Woods and her twin, Mildred Wallis Woods, the daughters of John D. Woods and Martha (Moseley) Woods, were born in Wahalak, Mississippi on 19 November 1868. Martha was educated at Frankfort and Glasgow, Kentucky schools and at Bellewood Seminary in Anchorage, Kentucky. On 14 June 1894, she married banker William J. Potter. They lived in William's house at 1348 State Street in Bowling Green until 1900, when they built a large estate on Nashville Pike called "The Cedars." They were the parents of four children: John Pleasant Potter, Mildred Wallis Potter, William J. Potter, Jr., and Douglass Woods Potter. Martha's sister Mildred ("Minna") married Eugene R. "Ted" Bagby on 7 February 1893. The Bagbys built a house on Nashville Pike in Bowling Green that they called Drumsheugh Cottage, after the street in Edinburgh, Scotland where an ancestral home once stood.

In April 1905, Martha (Woods) Potter suffered a serious financial upheaval when P. J. Potter's Sons, the private bank of which her husband William J. Potter and two of his brothers were principals, became insolvent. (In a letter to her daughter Mildred dated 16 May 1960, Martha blamed the failure on the reckless lending practices of her brothers-in-law). The following September, the firm declared bankruptcy and the family's assets, as well as those of the bank, became subject to liquidation. Turning to her cooking skills to earn money, Martha began selling baked goods from a "housekeeping wagon" operated by a servant. The Cedars was sold in February 1906. In 1910, after a period of temporary residence during which Martha continued to sell her baked goods and took up private catering, the Potters moved back to 1348 State Street (Martha's late father had purchased the house after the bank's failure). Martha then entered home demonstration work for the University of Kentucky's Agricultural Extension Service. As the first woman home demonstration agent in Warren County, she taught canning and preserving methods, and after two promotions traveled through the state lecturing on foods. In 1919 Martha left the Extension Service, declining an offer to relocate to Lexington, and worked as the local Secretary of Charities for the Red Cross. Over 1921 and 1922, she spent winters operating rooming houses in St. Petersburg and Miami, Florida and giving bridge lessons. In 1931, Martha worked briefly as the dining room supervisor at Bowling Green's Helm Hotel. For the rest of her life, she rented out rooms in her State Street home; a longtime boarder was WKU professor Dr. James H. "Jimmy" Poteet. Martha's brother Jack also resided in the house after his retirement in 1926 from the railway mail service in Louisville, and her husband William occupied a separate, attic-level room.

Shortly after leaving The Cedars, Martha had taken up the study of music, earning a certificate in piano from the Western Kentucky State Normal School (now WKU). In 1925, she became the organist and choir director for Bowling Green's First Presbyterian Church, holding the position until 1942. She served from 1942-1950 as church historian, and for some 50 years as a Sunday School teacher, leading a woman's Bible class until her retirement in 1953. Martha's other interests included playing the cello, playing and teaching bridge, quilting, golfing with her sister Minna, redecorating and renovating her home (with help and advice from daughter Mildred), and gardening. She was also active in several women's clubs.

As would be the case with her sister Elizabeth, Martha was beset with failing eyesight in the mid-1950s. In 1954, she began to study Braille and touch typing to prepare for eventual blindness, and her resourcefulness earned the attention of several Kentucky newspapers (see

Box 3, Folder 1). Martha (Woods) Potter died on 21 April 1963 at age 94 and was buried in Fairview Cemetery.

Mildred Wallis Potter, the daughter of Martha (Woods) Potter and William J. Potter, was born in Bowling Green, Kentucky on 30 August 1897. She was educated at Bowling Green's Center Street School and WKU's Training School. After teaching school in Paducah, Kentucky in the mid-1920s, she married William G. Grace on 16 February 1926 and gave birth to a son, Eugene Rogers "Ted" Grace, on 24 November 1927. Mildred and William Grace divorced in February 1929. On 7 September 1931, she married Arthur W. "Artie" Lissauer; in 1932 he adopted her son Ted, who took his name. Arthur Lissauer was a successful industrialist and inventor, and the couple spent their time between homes in Louisville (called "Green Pastures") and Florida, including a Winter Park home purchased in 1950 called "Muchado" ("much ado"). Both houses were extensively renovated—the Louisville home was featured in *House Beautiful* in 1945 and the *Courier-Journal Magazine* in 1948 (see Box 11, Folder 1)—and Mildred's decorating skills were widely admired; Mildred was also popular in social circles for her talents as a hostess and imaginative party-giver. Mildred (Potter) Lissauer died in Louisville, Kentucky on 25 January 1998 at age 100.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists mostly of correspondence, diaries, journals, scrapbooks, clippings, photographs, genealogical data, and miscellaneous papers of the Potter, Woods and Lissauer families of Bowling Green and Louisville, Kentucky. The bulk of the collection consists of the papers of Martha (Woods) Potter, her daughter Mildred (Potter) Lissauer, and Martha's sister Elizabeth Moseley Woods. Some papers of Martha's husband and three sons, and of the Lissauer family, are also included. A collection inventory is in Box 1, Folder 1, together with genealogical notes on the families, but these notes are intended to show relationships among the individuals featured most prominently in this collection and should not be construed as a comprehensive genealogy.

Box 1 contains genealogical and historical materials on the Potter, Woods, Moseley and related families (Folders 2, 3, 5-8). Woods family members write from Mississippi to Elizabeth Moseley Woods and her sister Martha (Woods) Potter with family news as well as genealogical inquiries (Folder 4). Also included in Box 1 are correspondence and other papers of Martha (Woods) Potter's parents, John Dysart Woods and Martha (Moseley) Woods. John writes affectionately to his wife from Frankfort while serving in the state legislature; his papers also include biographical data, memoranda concerning his affairs and estate, and an 1884 announcement of his candidacy for Public Printer (Folder 9). Martha (Moseley) Woods writes letters to her daughter Elizabeth Moseley Woods, then studying in Italy, mostly detailing the hardships of Elizabeth's sister Martha and her husband William J. Potter following the failure of his family banking business, P. J. Potter's Sons, and informing Elizabeth of the death of her father (Folder 10). Other Woods family papers in this box include letters from Thomas Rawlings Woods to his stepmother Martha (Moseley) Woods and half-sister Elizabeth Moseley Woods, describing his school experiences at West Point, including some mild hazing (Folder 13); from John Golding Woods, brother of Martha (Woods) Potter, to his niece Mildred (Potter) Lissauer (who he addresses as "Sis") with mostly family news (Folder 14); and biographical data and letters of Martha (Woods) Potter's sister Mildred (Woods) Bagby, who writes from Bowling

Green and Florida to Martha and to her niece Mildred (Potter) Lissauer about family activities, her bridge and golf games, and redecorating (Folder 15). Also included is a diary of Mildred (Woods) Bagby kept two years before her marriage (Folder 16), and a few letters of Mildred's husband, Ted Bagby, giving family news to Mildred (Potter) Lissauer (who he also calls "Sis") and her husband Arthur Lissauer (Folder 17).

Box 2 contains correspondence and other papers of Mildred (Potter) Lissauer's aunt, Elizabeth Moseley Woods. Biographical data includes Elizabeth's notes, clippings and two early report cards (Folder 1). Included in Elizabeth's correspondence (Folders 2-8) are letters written to her mother from 1900-1903 while Elizabeth was traveling in the Mediterranean, the Far East, Ceylon, India, Egypt and Germany (Folder 2). Her later letters, written mostly to Mildred (Potter) Lissauer, concern Elizabeth's travel to Florida, her tenants, and household and family matters (Folders 3, 4). Elizabeth also discusses the health and affairs of her sister, Martha (Woods) Potter (Folder 5). Other topics in Elizabeth's letters include estate planning and domestic help arrangements, her attempts to cope with failing eyesight, congratulations received on her 100th birthday (Folder 6), her increasing need for practical nursing help, and her gift of a steeple cross to Glasgow's First Presbyterian Church (Folder 7). Undated letters, mostly written late in life when her eyesight was poor, relate family and domestic news. Documents relating to Elizabeth's travel (Folder 9) include passports, travel dates, and a proclamation awarded when Elizabeth crossed the equator in 1938. The remainder of Box 2 contains other personal papers, including a record book of stock ownership (Folder 10); an address book (Folder 11); a clipping about a 1903 Japanese-themed cotillion Elizabeth attended, a 1946 household inventory (Folder 12), and numerous memoranda regarding her will and plans for distribution of her personal belongings after her death (Folder 13).

Box 3, Folders 1-4 contain biographical material and correspondence of Mildred (Potter) Lissauer's mother, Martha (Woods) Potter. Folder 1 includes obituaries and clippings, Martha's letters to local newspaper editors, and her wishes regarding her funeral and estate. Of interest is Martha's autobiographical work, written as a gift to her descendants, called "The Story of My Life: The Story of a Struggle" (Folder 2). The first part of the work is a detailed reminiscence of Martha's early life, especially in Glasgow, Kentucky—her parents and siblings, her education, and family friends and activities, including games and Sabbath observances. The second part is in diary format, covering February 1934-January 1935, in which Martha recounts her activities in detail—daily routines, church work, golfing, hours spent practicing the cello, her purchase of an electric refrigerator, family visits, especially of her grandson "Teddy" Lissauer, and the various boarders at her house. She also offers reflections on such topics as women's clothing styles, social customs, world affairs, Depression-era crime and kidnappings, including that of the Lindbergh baby, the repeal of Prohibition, and her concern about "making ends meet" through renting rooms and playing the church organ in order not to impose financially on her children. The third part is an account of Martha's life in the years following the bankruptcy of her husband's bank, most notably her attempts to earn money for the family. Folder 4 includes another draft of the third part, together with her daughter Mildred's tribute to Martha's longtime practice of writing collectively to her children when they were living away from home (her weekly "bulletins" to her "kiddies"), and what Martha called her "last bulletin" offering some general reminiscences intended to be read after her death.

Box 3, Folders 5-10 consist almost entirely of letters of Martha (Woods) Potter. The majority are her typewritten weekly "bulletins" to her "kiddies" or "dearies" (although some letters are written to individual children and some are copied to her sister Minna, who spends winters in

Florida with her husband), and they typically contain descriptions of Martha's activities, household updates, and a steady supply of news and gossip. Among many local citizens mentioned are members of the Rodes, Covington, Nahm, Robertson, Fitch, Leiper, Hines, Cherry, Trigg, Baldy, Galloway and McElroy families; Martha also makes frequent mention of Susie Potter, her African-American domestic servant, and Fletcher, an occasional handyman. Martha's letters from 1903-1923 (Folder 5) include a few written from "The Cedars" but thereafter relate general news to her husband as he searches for other opportunities in the wake of his bank's failure; she also writes to her son Douglass during his travels in Europe and the Mediterranean in summer 1923. Martha's letters from 1924-1925 (Folder 6) include letters to her son Douglass at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida; to her daughter Mildred, who is teaching school in Paducah, Kentucky; and to her children collectively, relating local news as well as her social and church activities and information about her boarders. Martha's letters from 1926-1929 (Folder 7) include letters to her daughter Mildred giving news of Mildred's young son Eugene ("Teddy"), who is living with Martha while his mother, after her brief first marriage, works as a secretary in Louisville; other topics include Martha's boarders and domestic help, her injuries after being struck by a car, her travel, the birth of her granddaughter Martha Woods Potter, and her various leisure and church activities. Martha's letters from 1930-1931 (Folder 8) relate general news such as family activities (including those of Teddy, who continues to live with her after his mother remarries), her club, church and charity work, including a visit to the County Home (the "poor house"), and her brother-in-law Ted Bagby's health. Martha's 1932 letters to her children (Folder 9) provide much local news and gossip. She reports Teddy's activities in detail (in June, Teddy moves to Louisville to live with his mother and stepfather, who completes his adoption of the boy in October, but Teddy will return to Martha's for extended visits throughout his childhood). Other topics include Martha's church, club, golf, music and social activities; her teaching of contract bridge; her boarders, who include her cousin Edgar Woods and his wife Ida; and the birth of her granddaughter, Joan Bagby Potter. Martha comments on the Lindbergh kidnapping, voices her support of Franklin D. Roosevelt (but her opposition to Prohibition repeal), and writes of local affairs as the Depression reaches Bowling Green: employee reductions at her church, the financial troubles of neighbors, the "Prosperity coin" program (involving tokens redeemable for store discounts), and the struggle to construct the city's first sewer system. Also included is an undated letter to Martha from Susie Potter, her domestic servant. Martha's 1933 letters to her children (Folder 10) relate her music, social and club activities in detail as well as local news and gossip, including the progress of the sewer work, Depression-era banking in the city, and her church's centennial celebration. She begins cello lessons with Victor Rice, a teacher at WKU who later became a cellist with the Cincinnati Symphony.

Box 4 consists mostly of Martha (Woods) Potter's typewritten "bulletins" and letters to her family and individual children. They continue to provide much detail about her activities as well as local news and gossip. Martha's 1934 letters (Folder 1) include stereotypical views of African Americans as she describes a rumor of a macabre funeral custom and her reluctance to address a black physician as "Doctor"; she also refers to her boarders, Teddy's visits, crime, the city sewer work and her purchase of an electric refrigerator. Her 1935 letters (Folder 2) report outbreaks of polio in Bowling Green from July to October, her sister Minna's construction of a new home, and her own home improvements. She also expresses concern about the welfare of her son William, Jr., then living in New York. Martha's 1936 letters (Folder 3) include news of her home remodeling, her boarders, and her unease over William, Jr.'s mental and physical

health. Her 1937 letters (Folder 4) describe the plight of refugees in Bowling Green after the Ohio River flood, her servant Susie's resignation, and the deaths of well-known citizens Henry Denhardt, Sunshine Nahm and Henry Hardin Cherry; also prominent in these letters is her continuing concern for William, Jr., whose financial problems and alcohol abuse have created a rift with his family. Martha's 1938 letters (Folder 5) include news of more home improvements, her fondness for the radio, and her fears about war in Europe. Martha's 1939 letters (Folder 6) are mostly to daughter Mildred and report on a mild stroke suffered by Mildred's father, a fire at her home, and her work in the campaign of an independent ticket for Bowling Green City Council. She also comments on the war news from Europe. Martha's 1940 letters (Folder 7) are mostly to Mildred and to her sister Minna in Florida. They include much local news, her renewed concern for her son William, her entertaining (with help and advice from Mildred) and her antipathy toward the Axis leaders. Martha's 1941 letters (Folder 8) are mostly to her daughter Mildred. She mourns the death of William, Jr. on 23 February, reports on home improvements and domestic news, and briefly criticizes isolationism and anti-Semitism in the country. Her 1942 letters (Folder 9), mostly to daughter Mildred, concern her son Douglass's wedding and Navy service; she also comments on the local war effort as she experiences rationing, knits for Bundles for America, and helps to organize scrap drives. Martha's 1943 letters (Folder 10) to her children include remarks on her war work, Douglass's military service and the birth of his first child, the opening of a soldier's canteen in Bowling Green, and her fear of losing Edna Caruth, her domestic servant. Martha's 1944 letters (Folder 11) comment on her 50th wedding anniversary, her first plane ride, and her domestic situation after Edna leaves for employment at a local tobacco factory. She also comments on the war, but an encounter with a Jewish man on the train home from Louisville provokes a baldly anti-Semitic reaction. Her 1945 letters (Folder 12) mourn the death of her son John, comment on the war's end, and discuss her attempts to navigate the postwar market for domestic servants in Bowling Green. The murder of a domestic at the home of banker Max Nahm prompts her to relate superstitions among the African-American community that make it difficult for him to find a live-in replacement. Martha's 1946 letters to her children (Folder 13) continue to discuss her domestic servants, including her possible re-employment of Susie Potter. She also reports on postwar housing activity, delights in her purchase of a "Bendix" washing machine, and expresses her satisfaction with a portrait of daughter Mildred painted by local artist Sarah (Gaines) Peyton. Martha's 1947 letters (Folder 14) discuss her concern for two elderly friends, sisters Margaret and Josephine Calvert, her domestic service arrangements (with associated comments about African Americans), Susie Potter's return (she would remain until Martha's death), son Doug's banking career, daughter Mildred's surgery in Florida, and the illness and death of her sister Minna. In a letter to her daughter, Martha expresses her anguish over Minna's remains being buried instead of cremated.

Box 5 consists mostly of Martha's typewritten letters to her two surviving children, Mildred and Douglass. They include her customary domestic details as well as local news and gossip. As she ages, the illnesses and deaths of neighbors and friends also receive frequent mention. Martha's 1948 letters (Folder 1) relate her concern for Minna's widower Ted Bagby, the illness and death of her brother John ("Jack"), and her 80th birthday celebration. Martha's 1949 letters (Folder 2) are largely concerned with Ted Bagby's illness and death and the sale of the Bagbys' property; she also refers to son-in-law Artie's recent surgery, grandson Ted's possible marriage, and her dissatisfaction with the slow settlement of brother Jack's estate by a local lawyer. Many of Martha's 1950 letters (Folder 3) concern the recuperation at her home of her sister Bethie

after an episode of lameness, and of her husband William, Sr. after hospitalization and surgery for a bladder ailment. Martha's 1951 letters (Folder 4) report on her husband's health, her anticipation of failing eyesight, and her enthusiastic viewing habits following her daughter's gift of a television; she also makes more frequent references to sister Bethie as she becomes less independent. Martha's 1952 letters (Folder 5) mourn the death of her husband, William, Sr., and discuss the handling of his personal effects; she reports on her television viewing, her acquisition of false teeth and a hearing aid, and a trip with Bethie to visit relatives in Mississippi. Martha's letters from 1953-1957 (Folder 6) are mostly to daughter Mildred and document her activities, family news, and her retirement from Sunday School teaching. Letters and instructional materials from 1954-1960 (Folder 7) relate to Martha's study of Braille. Martha's 1958 letters (Folder 8) discuss some extensive interior decorating, grandson Ted's wedding, and a family reunion held in conjunction with her birthday. Her 1959 letters (Folder 9), mostly to daughter Mildred, refer to the illness of her boarder Jimmy Poteet, her eye surgery, her sister Bethie's health, and the birth of grandson Ted's child. Martha's 1960 letters (Folder 10) find her coping with deteriorating vision and the increasing necessity to type her letters solely by touch. She provides a variety of gossip and makes references to Bethie's poor eyesight, the health of son Douglass and her hope that he gives up smoking, the birth of grandson Ted's second child, and a portrait of her husband painted by local artist Herman Lowe. A letter to Martha includes a column published in the Louisville *Courier-Journal* relating an anecdote about her childhood in Frankfort. Martha's 1961 letters (Folder 11) discuss her health and jaw surgery, the newspaper coverage of her study of Braille and typing (see Box 3, Folder 1), her hobby of composing verse, and her compilation of materials for a history of her State Street home (see Box 9, Folder 7); also included is a letter from Victor Rice, her former cello teacher. In her 1962 letters (Folder 12), Martha writes of her enthusiasm for John Glenn's space flight and discusses various home and family matters, including the birth of another great-grandchild. As the year closes, she suffers two misfortunes: the illness and death of her son Douglass, and a sudden deterioration of her vision that leaves her "quite blind." Martha's 1963 letters, written in the final year of her life, find her typing in near-total blindness and dependent on her domestic, Susie, and others to read for her. She mourns Douglass's death and welcomes the birth of grandson Ted's third child; she writes of declining health (both hers and Bethie's) but also of a redecorating project for her dining room, begun only weeks before her death.

Box 6 contains various journals, scrapbooks and notebooks of Martha (Woods) Potter. Her journals (Folders 1, 2) record in great detail her activities and those of family members; Folder 1 includes some genealogical notes and obituary clippings, and Folder 2 includes a list of antiques and other furnishings acquired from about 1911 to 1928. A scrapbook (Folder 3) includes poetry, pamphlets, clippings, accounts, lists of furnishings, and guidelines for a domestic servant. A household journal (Folder 4) contains primarily menus. Martha's Christmas journals (Folders 5, 6) focus on her family composition, visitors, entertainments and menus every Christmas from 1912 to 1955. Notebooks record Martha's travels as a home demonstration agent (Folder 7) and Red Cross Charities secretary (Folder 8).

Box 7 also contains journals, scrapbooks and notebooks of Martha (Woods) Potter. Her journals (Folders 1, 2, 5-12) record her thoughts, activities, and interactions with family and cover much of her adult life. A separate journal records particulars of the weddings of her children Mildred and John; the latter is brief, as none of his family were actually present.

Box 8 contains various notes, scrapbooks and journals of Martha (Woods) Potter. Included is a personal scrapbook of writings and letters to newspaper editors, poems, clippings,

and family data (Folder 1); notes and outlines for literary club meetings (Folder 2); Presbyterian Church programs and historical sketches, and a Women's Auxiliary Certificate (Folder 3); Bible class and devotional materials (Folders 4, 5); a book of pressed flowers from her garden at The Cedars (Folder 6); and a journal of her later gardening activities (Folder 7).

Box 9 contains papers of Martha (Woods) Potter, her husband William J. Potter, Sr., and her sons William J. Potter, Jr. and Douglass W. Potter. Included in Martha's papers are miscellaneous notes, lists and address books (Folders 1-6); a history of her home at 1348 State Street, including three journals containing details of purchases, furnishings, repairs and improvements, as well as some family and financial data (Folder 7); and materials relating to Martha's estate (Folder 8). The settlement of the estate was complicated by the fact that Martha did not have title to 1348 State Street; in 1926, she had deeded the property to her now-deceased son John in trust, but left the terms of the trust unspecified. Papers of William J. Potter, Sr. (Folder 9) include an 1880s satirical newsletter called *The Park City Dude*, correspondence with daughter Mildred, a letter from a son relating to financial obligations of his father's insurance business, clippings and an obituary. Papers of William J. Potter, Jr. (Folder 10) consist mostly of letters to his family written from New York City in the 1930s. Unable to find steady employment and largely dependent on his family for gifts of food and money, William struggles with health and financial problems, depression, transient accommodations, and feelings of resentment and persecution. His communication with his brother-in-law Artie Lissauer, whose offers of help appear to come with a demand for greater accountability, is particularly strained. In the background is William's alcohol abuse, which he characterizes as a 20-year-old problem that his mother had failed to recognize. William, Jr.'s school records (Folder 11) consist of a few report cards and a composition. Papers of Douglass Potter (Folder 12) consist of a few family letters, biographical and obituary clippings, some brief correspondence relating to his estate, and two reports of Louisville's First National Bank, of which he was president at the time of his death.

Box 10 contains letters and other personal papers of Martha (Woods) Potter's son, John Pleasant Potter, and his family. A bond salesman and business executive in New York, Cincinnati and Louisville, John wrote affectionate letters to his mother recalling his childhood (Folder 1). A scrapbook of clippings, photographs and keepsakes compiled by his mother (Folder 2) documents John's service as an Army officer in World War I and with occupation forces thereafter. John's military reading material (Folder 3) includes an officer's handbook. Clippings (Folder 4) provide data on John's daughter and son-in-law, Joan and Henry Bickel.

Box 11 contains correspondence and other personal papers of Martha (Woods) Potter's daughter Mildred (Potter) Lissauer, her husband Arthur W. Lissauer, and son Eugene "Ted" Lissauer. Clippings from Kentucky, Florida and Mississippi newspapers (Folder 1) provide biographical data on Mildred Lissauer, her homes, entertainments and decorating talent. Mildred's correspondence (Folder 2) concerns social, household and family matters such as her son Ted's wedding and the care of her aunt Elizabeth ("Bethie"). Included are Mildred's undated notes concerning a visit to New York in an attempt to arrange treatment for brother William, Jr.'s alcoholism. Mildred's diary (Folder 3), kept when she was fifteen, records her leisure and social activities. A combination scrapbook-journal (Folder 4) documents Mildred's 1926 marriage to William C. Grace. Mildred's journal (Folder 5) contains miscellaneous notes and details of her mother's 1959 surgery in Louisville. Other papers of Mildred's include a pastel sketch (Folder 6), magazines and circulars relating to various luxury goods (Folder 7), and programs, invitations and personal notes (Folder 8); of interest is a distinctive invitation to a Lissauer

cocktail party (“Pandemonium at Green Pastures”). Arthur Lissauer’s papers include clippings relating to his business career, rare book collecting, and participation as a Kentucky National Guardsman in rescue efforts following the 1937 Ohio River flood (Folder 9). His correspondence (Folder 10) includes a few letters written to Mildred’s family. Papers of Arthur and Mildred’s son Ted Lissauer include a copy of his birth certificate with particulars of his adoption, and biographical clippings (Folder 11); letters written mostly during his youth and shortly after his marriage to Lois Mills (Folder 12); and school homework, particularly in Latin (Folder 13).

Box 12 contains materials relating to the Lissauer family, and miscellaneous or unidentified family documents collected by Mildred Lissauer. Records of the wedding of Ted and Lois (Mills) Lissauer (Folder 1) include correspondence, clippings, and lists of gifts for the couple and for a son born the following year. Data on Ted and Lois’s children (Folder 2) includes clippings and birth notes. Also included in this box are World War II ration books for the Lissauer family (Folder 3); a letter of German chemist Justus Leibig, perhaps collected by Arthur Lissauer (Folder 4); Confederate bonds, and replicas of Confederate notes (Folder 5); an account book, probably Martha (Woods) Potter’s (Folder 6); an unidentified recipe book (Folder 7); and notes on Bowling Green and Warren County history (Folder 8).

Box 13 contains two account books, one identified as belonging to John Dysart Woods.

Box 14 contains materials relating to the decoration and remodeling of the homes of Mildred and Arthur Lissauer: sketches, clippings and notes (Folders 1, 2); color, fabric and carpet samples (Folders 3-7); correspondence (Folder 6); and plans (Folder 8). At least some are related to “Muchado,” the Lissauers’ Winter Park, Florida home.

Box 15 contains photographs, mostly relating to the Potter family and friends (Folders 1-8) as well as other oversized items: certificates (Folder 9), Mildred Lissauer’s scrapbook of Christmas-themed clippings and imagery (Folder 10), and Martha (Woods) Potter’s scrapbook with photographs, clippings, school records, art work and other keepsakes relating to her children during their youth (Folder 11).

Box 16 contains photographs, mostly of members of the Potter, Lissauer, and Moseley families. Included are photocopies of those photos that have been transferred to the Kentucky Library Research Collections.

Box 17 contains photographs, mostly of members of the Potter, Woods and Lissauer families, together with miscellaneous and unidentified photographs. Included are photocopies of those photos that have been transferred to the Kentucky Library Research Collections.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Genealogy; John Dysart Woods & Family	1856-1977	195 items
Folder 1	Inventory and genealogical notes		2 items
Folder 2	Potter family – Genealogy and history	1911-1977	30 items
Folder 3	Woods family – Genealogy and history	1856-1951	22 items

Folder 4	Letters from Woods family in Mississippi to Martha (Woods) Potter and Elizabeth Moseley Woods	1961-1965	9 items
Folder 5	Moseley and Mitchell families – Genealogy and history	1947-1966	16 items
Folder 6	Kirby and Choice families – Genealogy and history	1930-1960	11 items
Folder 7	Hall, Calvert and Wallis families – Genealogy and history	1956, n.d.	16 items
Folder 8	Hill family – Genealogy and history	1881-1972	9 items
Folder 9	John Dysart Woods – Letters; biographical and estate data	1882-1906	16 items
Folder 10	Martha (Moseley) Woods – Letters to Elizabeth Woods; letter to brother(?)	1905-1906	11 items
Folder 11	Martha (Moseley) Woods – Autograph album	ca. 1860	1 item
Folder 12	Martha (Moseley) Woods – Note on trousseau	1947	1 item
Folder 13	Thomas Rawlings Woods – Letters	1881	3 items
Folder 14	John Golding Woods – Correspondence	1932-1947	11 items
Folder 15	Mildred (Woods) Bagby – Correspondence; biographical data	1893-1947	31 items
Folder 16	Mildred (Woods) Bagby – Diary and journal	1891; 1938-1947	2 items
Folder 17	Eugene R. “Ted” Bagby – Letters; biographical data	1943-1949	4 items
BOX 2	Elizabeth Moseley Woods	1874-1967	305 items
Folder 1	Elizabeth Moseley Woods – Biographical data	1874-1965	13 items
Folder 2	Elizabeth Moseley Woods – Letters written while traveling abroad	1900-1903	11 items
Folder 3	Elizabeth Moseley Woods – Correspondence	1911-1943	43 items
Folder 4	Elizabeth Moseley Woods – Correspondence	1944-1959	48 items

Folder 5	Elizabeth Moseley Woods – Correspondence	1960-1963	37 items
Folder 6	Elizabeth Moseley Woods – Correspondence	1964-1965	47 items
Folder 7	Elizabeth Moseley Woods – Correspondence	1966-1967	16 items
Folder 8	Elizabeth Moseley Woods – Correspondence	n.d.	29 items
Folder 9	Elizabeth Moseley Woods – Travel records and passport	1893-1941	9 items
Folder 10	Elizabeth Moseley Woods – Stocks record book	1952-1965	12 items
Folder 11	Elizabeth Moseley Woods? – Address book	n.d.	5 items
Folder 12	Elizabeth Moseley Woods – Miscellaneous papers	1903-1966	6 items
Folder 13	Elizabeth Moseley Woods – Will; correspondence and memoranda concerning funeral and disposition of estate	1958-1967	29 items
BOX 3	Martha (Woods) Potter	1903-1963	326 items
Folder 1	Martha (Woods) Potter – Biographical data; letters to editor; obituary	1924-1963	32 items
Folder 2	Martha (Woods) Potter – “The Story of My Life: The Story of a Struggle” – Original typescript	1934-1935	1 item
Folder 3	Martha (Woods) Potter – Original cover for “The Story of My Life”	1934-1935	1 item
Folder 4	Martha (Woods) Potter – “The Story of My Life: The Story of a Struggle” – Photocopy and associated material	1934-1935	4 items
Folder 5	Martha (Woods) Potter – Correspondence	1903-1923	45 items
Folder 6	Martha (Woods) Potter – Letters	1924-1925	39 items
Folder 7	Martha (Woods) Potter – Letters	1926-1929	45 items
Folder 8	Martha (Woods) Potter – Letters	1930-1931	53 items

Folder 9	Martha (Woods) Potter – Correspondence	1932	61 items
Folder 10	Martha (Woods) Potter – Letters	1933	45 items
BOX 4	Martha (Woods) Potter	1934-1947	635 items
Folder 1	Martha (Woods) Potter – Correspondence	1934	62 items
Folder 2	Martha (Woods) Potter – Correspondence	1935	60 items
Folder 3	Martha (Woods) Potter – Correspondence	1936	53 items
Folder 4	Martha (Woods) Potter – Correspondence	1937	54 items
Folder 5	Martha (Woods) Potter – Letters	1938	42 items
Folder 6	Martha (Woods) Potter – Correspondence	1939	33 items
Folder 7	Martha (Woods) Potter – Letters	1940	55 items
Folder 8	Martha (Woods) Potter – Correspondence	1941	51 items
Folder 9	Martha (Woods) Potter – Correspondence	1942	49 items
Folder 10	Martha (Woods) Potter – Correspondence	1943	41 items
Folder 11	Martha (Woods) Potter – Letters	1944	27 items
Folder 12	Martha (Woods) Potter – Letters	1945	35 items
Folder 13	Martha (Woods) Potter – Correspondence	1946	33 items
Folder 14	Martha (Woods) Potter – Correspondence	1947	40 items
BOX 5	Martha (Woods) Potter	1948-1963	524 items
Folder 1	Martha (Woods) Potter – Letters	1948	38 items
Folder 2	Martha (Woods) Potter – Letters	1949	55 items
Folder 3	Martha (Woods) Potter – Letters	1950	49 items
Folder 4	Martha (Woods) Potter – Letters	1951	33 items

Folder 5	Martha (Woods) Potter – Correspondence	1952	21 items
Folder 6	Martha (Woods) Potter – Correspondence	1953-1957	30 items
Folder 7	Martha (Woods) Potter – Letters to and materials regarding Braille instruction	1954-1960, n.d.	21 items
Folder 8	Martha (Woods) Potter – Correspondence	1958	48 items
Folder 9	Martha (Woods) Potter – Correspondence	1959	49 items
Folder 10	Martha (Woods) Potter – Correspondence	1960	57 items
Folder 11	Martha (Woods) Potter – Correspondence	1961	47 items
Folder 12	Martha (Woods) Potter – Correspondence	1962	63 items
Folder 13	Martha (Woods) Potter – Correspondence	1963	13 items

BOX 6 Martha (Woods) Potter 1883-1955 8 items

Folder 1	Martha (Woods) Potter – Journal and scrapbook	1883-1954	1 item
Folder 2	Martha (Woods) Potter – Journal	1894-1928	1 item
Folder 3	Martha (Woods) Potter – Scrapbook	1905-1942	1 item
Folder 4	Martha (Woods) Potter – Household journal	1907-1937	1 item
Folder 5	Martha (Woods) Potter – Christmas journal	1912-1926	1 item
Folder 6	Martha (Woods) Potter – Christmas journal	1912-1955	1 item
Folder 7	Martha (Woods) Potter – U.S. Department of Agriculture – Field diary and travel record	1919	1 item
Folder 8	Martha (Woods) Potter – Notebook re: charity	1919-1920	1 item

BOX 7 Martha (Woods) Potter 1920-1958 15 items

Folder 1	Martha (Woods) Potter – Journals – Florida and New Orleans	1920-1927	3 items
Folder 2	Martha (Woods) Potter – Journal	1923-1924	1 item

Folder 3	Martha (Woods) Potter – Journal – Weddings of Mildred Potter and William C. Grace; John P. Potter and Adele Ganley	1926-1927	2 items
Folder 4	Martha (Woods) Potter – Notebook	1931-1949	1 item
Folder 5	Martha (Woods) Potter – Journal	1933	1 item
Folder 6	Martha (Woods) Potter – Journal	1934	1 item
Folder 7	Martha (Woods) Potter – Journal	1936-1937	1 item
Folder 8	Martha (Woods) Potter – Journal	1937-1938	1 item
Folder 9	Martha (Woods) Potter – Journal of movies seen and books read	1938-1951	1 item
Folder 10	Martha (Woods) Potter – Journal	1942-1944	1 item
Folder 11	Martha (Woods) Potter – Journal	1944-1950	1 item
Folder 12	Martha (Woods) Potter – Journal	1953-1958	1 item
BOX 8	Martha (Woods) Potter	1902-1967	108 items
Folder 1	Martha (Woods) Potter – Scrapbook of writings, club activities, family data	1902-1945	1 item
Folder 2	Martha (Woods) Potter – Literary club notes	1942-1946	9 items
Folder 3	Martha (Woods) Potter – Presbyterian Church	1933-1967	40 items
Folder 4	Martha (Woods) Potter – Bible study notebook and loose materials therein	1942-1953	38 items
Folder 5	Martha (Woods) Potter – Book of daily prayers; devotional notes	1938-1950	16 items
Folder 6	Martha (Woods) Potter – Flower book from “The Cedars”	ca. 1902	1 item
Folder 7	Martha (Woods) Potter – Gardening journal	1943-1957	3 items

BOX 9	Martha (Woods) Potter & Family	1884-1975	171 items
Folder 1	Martha (Woods) Potter – Journal	1957-1960	1 item
Folder 2	Martha (Woods) Potter – Miscellaneous genealogy notes	1948, n.d.	5 items
Folder 3	Martha (Woods) Potter – P. J. Potter Bank passbook; checkbook	n.d.	4 items
Folder 4	Martha (Woods) Potter? – Address book	n.d.	1 item
Folder 5	Martha (Woods) Potter – Address books	n.d.	2 items
Folder 6	Martha (Woods) Potter – Miscellaneous papers	1900-1959	26 items
Folder 7	Martha (Woods) Potter – History of 1348 State St., Bowling Green, Kentucky; household records and inventories	1928-1961, n.d.	8 items
Folder 8	Martha (Woods) Potter – Estate; disposition of 1348 State St., Bowling Green, Kentucky	1962-1963, n.d.	27 items
Folder 9	William J. Potter, Sr. – Correspondence; miscellaneous papers	1884?-1952	17 items
Folder 10	William J. Potter, Jr. – Letters	1911-1940	52 items
Folder 11	William J. Potter, Jr. – School work; report cards	1908-1916	5 items
Folder 12	Douglass W. Potter – Letters; biographical data	1926-1975	23 items
BOX 10	John Pleasant Potter & Family	1899-1958	23 items
Folder 1	John Pleasant Potter – Letters; biographical data; obituary	1899-1952	14 items
Folder 2	John Pleasant Potter – Scrapbook relating to his World War I service	1917-1924	2 items
Folder 3	John Pleasant Potter – Soldier's handbooks; Bible	1917-1918	3 items
Folder 4	Joan (Potter) Bickel and Henry D. Bickel – Biographical data	1956-1958	4 items

BOX 11	Mildred (Potter) Lissauer & Family	1907-1998	311 items
Folder 1	Mildred (Potter) Lissauer – Biographical data	1926-1998	71 items
Folder 2	Mildred (Potter) Lissauer – Correspondence	1907-1985	84 items
Folder 3	Mildred (Potter) Lissauer – Diary	1912	1 item
Folder 4	Mildred (Potter) Lissauer – Memory book re: marriage to William C. Grace	1926	3 items
Folder 5	Mildred (Potter) Lissauer – Journal	1959	1 item
Folder 6	Mildred (Potter) Lissauer? – Pastel sketch	n.d.	1 item
Folder 7	Mildred (Potter) Lissauer – Christmas merchants – Catalogs, circulars	1937, n.d.	18 items
Folder 8	Mildred (Potter) Lissauer – Miscellaneous papers	1911-1964	16 items
Folder 9	Arthur W. Lissauer – Biographical data; miscellaneous papers	1925-1973	23 items
Folder 10	Arthur W. Lissauer – Correspondence	1929-1965	16 items
Folder 11	Eugene R. “Ted” Lissauer – Biographical data; miscellaneous papers	1927-1976	13 items
Folder 12	Eugene R. “Ted” Lissauer – Correspondence	1936-1986	14 items
Folder 13	Eugene R. “Ted” Lissauer – School work	1939-1941	50 items
BOX 12	Lissauer family; Miscellaneous	1861-1963	96 items
Folder 1	Eugene R. “Ted” Lissauer and Lois Lissauer – Wedding invitation, clippings, gift lists, etc. for couple and son, b. 1959	1958-1959	49 items
Folder 2	Arthur Woods Lissauer and Kate Douglass Lissauer – Births	1959-1963	8 items
Folder 3	Lissauer family – World War II ration books	1942-1945	24 items
Folder 4	Justus von Leibig – Letter and data	1863	3 items

Folder 5	Confederate bonds; replicas of Confederate notes	1861-1864	4 items
Folder 6	Account book	1905-1909	1 item
Folder 7	Recipe book	n.d.	2 items
Folder 8	Notes on Bowling Green and Warren County history	1882, n.d.	5 items
BOX 13	Account Books	1889-1900	2 items
Folder 1	Account book	1889-1890	1 item
Folder 2	John D. Woods – Account book	1894-1900	1 item
BOX 14	Mildred (Potter) Lissauer	1950-1965	112 items
Folder 1	Mildred (Potter) Lissauer – Decorating notes and sketches	1952, n.d.	11 items
Folder 2	Mildred (Potter) Lissauer – Decorating clippings from magazines	1953, n.d.	49 items
Folder 3	Mildred (Potter) Lissauer – Color samples	n.d.	11 items
Folder 4	Mildred (Potter) Lissauer – Carpet sample; notes	n.d.	2 items
Folder 5	Mildred (Potter) Lissauer – Fabric and wallpaper samples	n.d.	12 items
Folder 6	Mildred (Potter) Lissauer – Decorating correspondence	1957-1965	2 items
Folder 7	Mildred (Potter) Lissauer – Decorating scrapbook	1950-1955	15 items
Folder 8	Mildred and Arthur – Lissauer – Home design plans and sketches	1951-1957, n.d.	10 items
BOX 15	Scrapbooks; Oversized Photographs; Certificates	1888-1940	18 items
Folder 1	Emanie (Nahm) Sachs Arling Philips – Photographs	1917, n.d.	2 items

Folder 2	Douglass Woods Potter – Photographs	n.d.	2 items
Folder 3	John Pleasant Potter and family – Photographs	1912-1930	5 items
Folder 4	William J. Potter and Martha (Woods) Potter – Home, 1348 State St. – Photograph	n.d.	1 item
Folder 5	William J. Potter, Jr. – Photograph	1939	1 item
Folder 6	Whitehead and Sherwood families – Photographs	1932-1940	2 items
Folder 7	Old Men’s Reunion – Warren County – Photograph	1888	1 item
Folder 8	Unidentified photographs of groups	n.d.	4 items
Folder 9	Arthur W. Lissauer – Certificate of Knights Templar; Elizabeth Moseley Woods – Kentucky Colonel certificate	1965-1966	2 items
Folder 10	Mildred (Potter) Lissauer – Scrapbook of Christmas imagery	1936	1 item
Folder 11	Martha (Woods) Potter – Scrapbook of children’s school work, photographs, etc.	1896-1925	1 item
BOX 16	Photographs	1881-1952	183 items
Folder 1	Mildred (Woods) Bagby; Drumsheugh Cottage	n.d.	4 items
Folder 2	John E. Buckingham	1952, n.d.	2 items
Folder 3	Jesse Kirby	n.d.	1 item
Folder 4	Eugene R. “Ted” Lissauer	1931, n.d.	6 items
Folder 5	Lissauer family	1959, n.d.	5 items
Folder 6	Lissauer home – Louisville, Kentucky (slides)	n.d.	87 items
Folder 7	Clarence Underwood McElroy	n.d.	1 item
Folder 8	Moseley family	n.d.	4 items
Folder 9	Douglass Woods Potter	1903-1942	10 items

Folder 10	Douglass Woods Potter – World War I snapshots	1918-1919	24 items
Folder 11	Potter family	1901-1914, n.d.	6 items
Folder 12	John Pleasant Potter and family	1896-1952	12 items
Folder 13	John Pleasant Potter – Photo album	1911	1 item
Folder 14	Martha (Woods) Potter	1894-1952	6 items
Folder 15	Pleasant J. Potter and family	1894, n.d.	6 items
Folder 16	William J. Potter, Sr.	1881-1884	8 items
BOX 17	Photographs	1870-1965	84 items
Folder 1	William J. Potter, Sr. – Photo album	ca. 1905	1 item
Folder 2	William J. Potter, Sr. and Martha (Woods) Potter and family	1899-1962	5 items
Folder 3	William J. Potter, Sr. and Martha (Woods) Potter – Homes	n.d.	3 items
Folder 4	William J. Potter, Jr.	n.d.	3 items
Folder 5	Whitehead and Sherwood families	1935-1956	8 items
Folder 6	Woods, Potter and Lissauer families – Montages	n.d.	17 items
Folder 7	Elizabeth Moseley Woods	1870-1965	21 items
Folder 8	Woods family	n.d.	2 items
Folder 9	John Dysart Woods	1892, n.d.	5 items
Folder 10	John Golding Woods	1870-1894	3 items
Folder 11	Martha Allen (Moseley) Woods	n.d.	2 items
Folder 12	Thomas Rawlings Woods	ca. 1881	1 item
Folder 13	Fountain Square Park, Bowling Green, Kentucky	1904	1 item

Folder 14	Kentucky Building gardens	1942, n.d.	2 items
Folder 15	Miscellaneous	1900-1952, n.d.	10 items
Folder 16	Unidentified	n.d.	9 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS 482 LISSAUER, Mildred Wallis (Potter), 1856-1998
1897-1998 – Collector

Correspondence, scrapbooks, journals, diaries, photographs and miscellaneous papers of Mildred (Potter) Lissauer of Bowling Green and Louisville, Kentucky and of her family, especially her mother, Martha (Woods) Potter and her aunt, Elizabeth Moseley Woods.

17 boxes. 184 folders. 3,116 items. Originals, photocopies, photographs, color slides.
1977.37.3

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SEE or SEE ALSO

Grace, Eugene "Ted" Rogers, 1927-2009

See:

Lissauer, Eugene "Ted" Rogers

Grace, Mildred Wallis (Potter), 1897-1998

See:

Lissauer, Mildred Wallis (Potter)

Earle, Huberta Frances (Potter), 1895-1990

See:

Schaeffer, Huberta Frances (Potter) Earle