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Department of Archives and Manuscripts

Matthews, Martha Franklin Papers, 1900-1987

Background:

Martha Matthews was a Birmingham native, a librarian with the Birmingham Public Library, and also had a series of fashion and shopping columns published in the *Birmingham News* under the pseudonym Betty Birmingham. During World War II, Matthews was a WAV and was stationed at Maxwell Air Field (now Maxwell Air Force Base) in Montgomery, Alabama. At the end of the war, Martha volunteered with the American Red Cross and then spent several years stationed in the towns of Fulda and Degerndorf in Germany.

Scope and Content:

This collection contains photographs, correspondence, and an assortment of papers of Martha Matthews. The collection primarily consists of letters from Martha's mother: Addie Norton Matthews. Very few letters from Martha to her mother are contained within this collection. There is a scrapbook and loose collection of Martha's photographs of American soldiers engaging in "R&R" in Germany and other locations in western Europe after the war.

Related Collections:

Amaranth Club Records

Subject Areas:

World War, 1939-1945—Women

World War, 1939-1945--War work--Red Cross

Size: 6 linear feet (4 boxes)

Source: Martha Matthews Estate

Restrictions: Standard preservation and copyright restrictions.

Guide Prepared by: Brandon Crawford Smith (August 2009)

File Number:	Description:
1932.1.1	June 1937 – July 1937 Letters to Martha, a.k.a. “Marchie” at Camp Winnataska in Eden, Alabama Newspaper clipping from McWilliams-Schultz wedding included in letter dated July 12, 1937
1932.1.2	July 1937 – August 1937 Letters to Camp Winnataska A group of postcards sent from Martha’s mother from Muscle Shoals at Florence
1932.1.3	September 1937 - November 1937 Several letters from a friend, Jane, in college in Florida
1932.1.4	July 1942 – December 1942
1932.1.5	January 1943 – February 1943
1932.1.6	March 1943 – May 1943
1932.1.7	June 1943 – August 1943
1932.1.8	August 1943 – August 1943
1932.1.9	September 1943 Mother includes a clipping on the death of Grover C. Bryant. She mentions she is so glad Italy surrendered and hopes it will hasten the ending of the war.
1932.1.10	September 1943
1932.1.11	October 1943 Clipping announcing engagement of Mary Margaret Price to Fred Matthew McCord.
1932.1.12	October 1943 Newspaper clipping with picture of the first twins to be enlisted in the Waves.
1932.1.13	November 1943
1932.1.14	November 1943 Newspaper clipping about Cadet Percy Hillhouse.

- 1932.1.15 December 1943
Letters, Christmas cards, postcards, and newspaper clipping
("Former County Librarians Are Busy Now in War Work")
- 1932.1.16 December 1943
Letters and a Christmas Card.
- 1932.1.17 January 1944
Letters, Account Statement from Burger-Phillips
- 1932.1.18 January 1944
Letters, newspaper clippings from Social Pages announcing
Visits by Mrs. Haskell Sparrow of New York as well as
Misses Harriet and Rebecca Lide (WAVES) of
Jacksonville. Also clippings, "Protest of Plane Crash
Photos' Ruin Is Readied; Victims Listed" and a Betty
Birmingham advertisement/special shopping listing.
- 1932.1.19 January, 1944
Letters
- 1932.1.20 February, 1944
Letters
- 1932.1.21 February, 1944
Letters; Newspaper Clippings: Cartoon of WAVES on
board a ship, and AP photograph of several Army Air
Force generals at Maxwell Field, Brief article on the
promotion of Vice Admiral John H. Towers.
- In letter dated February 23, 1944, Martha's mother writes
about an article in the January 17, 1944 edition of Time on
women in the war that inspired Martha's friend Peggy to
join the WACs.
- 1932.1.22 March, 1944
Letters, Newspaper Clippings: "Veteran Librarian Recalls
35 Years of Institution in City", Birth Announcements,
"Local Soldier Writes About Visit to Pasha of Marrakech"
- 1932.1.23 March, 1944
Letters, Copy of Chain Letter sent by Martha Matthews to a
friend in Connecticut
- 1932.1.24 April 1944

Letters, a handwritten list of old-fashioned games for groups of kids to play (Wheelbarrow Relay, Rooster Fight, Battle Royal, Coin Hunt, etc) is found by Mrs. Matthews in an old composition book is included in the April 18th Letter, Correspondence from Ethel Gloster Norton.

- 1932.1.25 April 1944
Letters, Postcards, Newspaper Clipping on Captain Herbert B. West.
- 1932.1.26 May 1944
Letters, Newspaper Clipping (Winnataska Outing Season Is Nearing for Boys and Girls), Mrs. Matthew's includes a transcription of a letter from Sam Coles who is a soldier stationed in New Guinea (mentions taking communion in the jungle at Easter, knocking the pants off the old Nips, etc.)
- 1932.1.27 May 1944
Letters
- 1932.1.28 June 1944
Letters, Newspaper Clipping (Changes By Airlines To Expand Service From City), Letter on United States Women's Army Corps letterhead.
- 1932.1.29 June 1944
Letters, Newspaper Clippings (Aland-Levin Wedding; Motor Corps; Random Notes), Postcards
- 1932.1.30 July 1944
Letters
- 1932.1.31 July 1944
Letters, Newspaper Clippings (Mrs. Frances Newman Chosen Five Points Girl Activity Leader; Red Cross Worker to Serve Overseas; "The Chocolate Soldier" Is In Production; Wedding of Patricia Nelson to Capt. Joseph A. Kyser Solemnized in Livingston; War Loan Service Legion); Postcards, Photograph of couple in their living room, photograph of woman in garden.
- 1932.1.32 August 1944
Letters, Postcards
- 1932.1.33 August 1944

- Letters, Newspaper Clipping (Lt. David Coleman Peebles)
- 1932.1.34 September 1944
Letters, Newspaper Clipping (Brief: Lt. Dorothy Null
USNR...)
- 1932.1.35 September 1944
Letters, Newspaper Clippings (Briefs from Society and
Military Notes)
- 1932.1.36 October 1944
Letters, Newspaper Clippings (Miss Octavia Sadler
Married To Maj. John M. Cobb, Army, In Roebuck Chapel
Ceremony; Miss Margaret Ann Mitchell, Lt. James
Donaldson, Jr., USN, Married in Bessemer Ceremony),
One letter in this file has been torn into tiny pieces.
- 1932.1.37 November 1944
Letters
- 1932.1.38 November 1944
Letters, Newspaper Clippings (Promoted to Major – Gilbert
E. Johnston, Army Transportation Corps; BSC Librarian),
- 1932.1.39 December 1944
Letters, Newspaper Clippings (Veteran Flier Gives
Realistic View of Battle, P-38 Planes Changed to
Reconnaissance Job)
- 1932.1.40 January 1945
Letters, a program from First Presbyterian Church of
Birmingham for the morning service on December 31,
1944. Newspaper Clipping (photo with caption: Red Cross
Recruiters; advertisement for \$4.00 house slippers at
Loveman's; Marguerite Morgan Engaged To Marry Capt.
Shumaker)
- 1932.2.1 February 1945
Letters, Invoice from Loveman's (for Martha F. Matthews
with a balance of \$29.92), Birthday Card.
- 1932.2.2 March 1945
Letters, Newspaper Clippings (Historic Church, New
London, Conn., Is Scene of Local Couple's Wedding; Capt.

John Colmant Wins Recognition; Bronze Star Medal Given Lt. McKinley; Victor H. Hanson Passes Suddenly At Home Here; Martin J. Lide Dies Suddenly At Residence)

- 1932.2.3 March 1945
Letters
- 1932.2.4 April 1945
Letters, a Program from the First Presbyterian Church of (April 1, 1945)
- 1932.2.5 May 1945
Letters, Application for War Savings Bonds used as a postcard, Receipt from Loveman's, Letter from "Helen" postmarked May 16th includes a discussion about several employees of the Birmingham Public Library,
- 1932.2.6 June 1945
Letters - All letters in this folder appear to be from Martha Matthews and detail her Washington, D.C. training for "active duty" in the Red Cross.
- 1932.2.7 October 1945 – January 1946
Letters, (A couple of typewritten letters from George C Kraft of 50 Central Park West NY, NY)
- 1932.2.8 1946 – 1947
Letters, Christmas Card, Newspaper Clippings (Society Personals, Wedding and Birth Announcements).
- 1932.2.9 1946-1947
Letters, First Presbyterian Church Program from March 9, 1947. Photographs.
- 1932.2.10 1947
Letters, Birmingham-Southern College Bulletin February 1947, Newspaper Clippings (Wedding and Birth Announcements; Two Presented Honors For 25 Years' Work With School Council; Lt. Col. S.L. Morrow Gets Staff Position; Photo with caption: Put Out That Cigare!t [sic]), Program from performance of the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra at the Municipal Auditorium on April 1, 1947.
- 1932.2.11 April 1947

Letters, Programs from First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham for Palm Sunday – March 30, 1947 & Easter – April 7, 1947.

- 1932.2.12 April 1947
Letters, Programs from First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham for April 27, 1947 & 75th Anniversary Program for the Church (featuring profile of world class carillon player Anton Brees).
- 1932.2.13 May 1947
Letters, 10 cent Military Payment Certificate, Newspaper Clippings (Civic Theater Play Will Bring Reunion to Members of Cast; Article on retirement of Birmingham Public Library Director Lila May Chapman).
- 1932.2.14 June 1947
Letters, Birmingham-Southern College Bulletin (June 1947), Newspaper Clippings (Social Briefs, “In Germany – Miss Marjorie Derby”)
- 1932.2.15 May 1948 – December 1951
Letters, Newspaper Clippings (“Funeral Rights for Dr. Walker Set for Today”; “Dr. Hugh Walker Dies at Age of 87”), Pay Stub from Birmingham Board of Education from Addie N. Matthews for May 1951; Christmas Cards
- 1932.2.16 December 1951
Christmas Cards
- 1932.2.17 December 1951
Christmas Cards, Letters
- 1932.2.18 December 1951
Christmas Cards, Letters
- 1932.2.19 June 1899 – January 1945
Letters
- 1932.2.20 December 1942 – December 1947
Letters, Travel Orders from Brigadier General Dalbey to Martha Matthews to report to Heidelberg, Germany
- 1932.2.21 March 1943 -
Letters, Handwritten List of Aviation Books

- 1932.2.22 1948 – 1951
Various financial records: bank deposit receipts, bank statements, cancelled checks, Tax Return Forms for 1948, Pamphlet: “Helpful Information on How to Prepare Your U.S. Income Tax Return on Form 1040 for 1948.”
- 1932.2.23 Various financial records: Bank statements, Pay stubs from Birmingham Board of Education,
- 1932.2.24 W-2 for Addie N. Matthews for 1948 from Birmingham Board of Education, Pay stubs from Birmingham Board of Education. Employment Contract for Addie Norton Matthews with Birmingham Board of Education for 1948
- 1932.2.25 Photographs (curled) – Pompeii
- 1932.2.26 Photographs (curled) – Pompeii
- 1932.2.27 Photographs (curled) – Paris, France
- 1932.2.28 Photographs (curled) – Paris, France
- 1932.2.29 Photographs (curled) – Paris, France
- 1932.2.30 Photographs (curled) – Paris, France
- 1932.2.31 Photographs (curled) – Paris, France
- 1932.2.32 Photographs (curled) – French Alps & French-Italian Border
- 1932.2.33 Photographs (curled) – French Alps & French-Italian Border
- 1932.2.34 Photographs (curled) – French Alps & French-Italian Border
- 1932.2.35 Photographs (curled) – Ile Saint-Honorat
- 1932.2.36 Photographs (curled) – Cannes & Unknown
- 1932.2.37 Photographs (curled) – Coast of the Mediterranean Sea – unknown locations
- 1932.2.38 Photographs (curled) – Coast of the Mediterranean Sea –

- unknown locations
- 1932.2.39 Photographs (curled) – Coast of the Mediterranean Sea – unknown locations
- 1932.2.40 Photographs (curled) – Coast of the Mediterranean Sea – unknown locations
- 1932.2.41 Photographs (curled) – Coast of the Mediterranean Sea – Nice, Monaco, and Monte Carlo.
- 1932.2.42 Photographs (curled) – Coast of the Mediterranean Sea – Nice, Monaco, and Monte Carlo.
- 1932.2.43 Photographs (curled) – Coast of the Mediterranean Sea – San Michel & Sorrento
- 1932.2.44 Postcards
Dublin, Nice, London, German Alps, Oberammergau, and Munich.
- 1932.2.45 Photographs – Westminster Abbey, Kensington Gardens, Edinburgh, and Amsterdam.
- 1932.2.46 Photographs – London, Ayr, and Robert Burn's Cottage.
- 1932.2.47 Photographs – Various Alabama 1940's - 1960's (three strips of 16 mm color negatives)
- 1932.2.48 Photographs – Venice
- 1932.2.49 Photographs – Venice
- 1932.2.50 Photographs – Venice
- 1932.3.1 Photographs – Venice
- 1932.3.2 Photographs – Milan
- 1932.3.3 Photographs – Geneva, League of Nations Building & Interior
- 1932.3.4. Photographs – Geneva, League of Nations Building & Interior

- 1932.3.5 Photographs – Geneva, International Red Cross
Headquarters
- 1932.3.6 Photographs – Geneva
- 1932.3.7 Photographs – Capri
- 1932.3.8 Photographs – Capri
- 1932.3.9 Postcards: Winter in Berchtsgaden, Photographs-Postcards
– Capri (Brunner & Co.),
- 1932.3.10 Photographs-Postcards – Capri (Brunner & Co.)
- 1932.3.11 Photographs-Postcards – Versailles
- 1932.3.12 Photographs-Postcards – Firenze
- 1932.3.13 Photographs-Postcards – Monaco Monte-Carlo
- 1932.3.14 Photographs & Postcards – Cathedral in Milan, German
Beer Ads, Munich, Hofbraukeller, and La Cote d’Azur.
- 1932.3.15 Photographs – dating from around 1900; Christmas &
Birthday Cards.
- 1932.3.16 Christmas Cards
- 1932.3.17 Christmas Cards
- 1932.3.18 Christmas Cards, Recipes, Sales Receipt from Burger-
Phillips.
- 1932.3.19 Christmas Cards, Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph
Bills,
- 1932.3.20 Various Bills and Receipts, Newspaper Clipping: “Beauty
Treatment for Your Jewelry” *Birmingham Post-Herald*
November 10, 1946.
- 1932.3.21 Christmas Poems and Prayers
- 1932.3.22 Amaranth Club Program, Newspaper Clippings: “Amaranth
To Fete 50-Year President” *Birmingham News* December
12, 1947:30; “The Once Over – Adolph’s Soliloquy” by H.
I. Phillips from *Birmingham News*; First Presbyterian

- Church Norfolk, Virginia – January 1, 1950; Piano Recital Program for Pupils of Mrs. E. L. Carter; Certificate for Completion of “Guiding Children in Christian Growth” class from Leadership Education Department of Presbyterian Church.
- 1932.3.23 Guide to Munich from the Headquarters of the Third U.S. Army and Eastern Military District; *Maxwell Field Post*; issues dates March 3, 1945, October 14, 1944; *Yank: The Army Weekly* dated August 4, 1944; “Tiger Times” from South Highland School.
- 1932.3.24 Newspaper Clipping: “Treasured Cosmetics Make Ideal Christmas Gifts” (Betty Birmingham) *The Birmingham News* November 28, 1943: 10; Normal Training School Commencement Program dated May 5, 1897; Lakeview School Graduation Exercises Program dated May 30, 1929; Sunday School lesson plan, Various certificates of completion for Christian leadership education; Letter to Radio Quiz Show regarding famous estates in literature; Phonetic translation of Japanese song; A handwritten poem aimed a teachers.
- 1932.3.25 A handwritten excuse for a boy with the mumps; A pamphlet titled “So You Want to Grow Roses” published by the Armour Fertilizer Works; Auburn University Commencement Invitation from 1931; Various undated letters.
- 1932.3.26 Various Notes and Instructional Manuals from Martha Matthew’s service as a WAV during World War II. Student Pilot Certificate for Martha Matthews from the U.S. Department of Commerce. Map of Montgomery, Ala.
- 1932.3.27 Red Cross Training Materials and Field Materials.
- 1932.3.28 Binder Contents containing notes from Martha Matthew’s Red Cross Training.
- 1932.3.29 Birthday Cards, Christmas Cards, Letters, and Business/Calling Cards.
- 1932.3.30 Document of Specifications for Venetian Blinds, Letters, Postcards, Telegrams, Birth Announcement for L. White Matthews, Jr.; Birmingham-Southern College Commencement Invitation 1937; Various Newspaper

Clippings;

- 1932.3.31 "Uncle Ray's Magazine" three editions; Presbyterian Church Pamphlets; Calendar with photograph of a young child; Martha Matthews' report cards.
- 1932.3.32 Deeds
- 1932.3.33 Red Cross Continental Procedurals and Staff Instructions
- 1932.3.34 Large Map of Occupied Germany
- 1932.3.35 Red Cross Materials: Recreation Suggestions Exchange Bulletin
- 1932.3.36 Program from 50th Reunion for Class of 1937 from Birmingham-Southern College.
- 1932.4.1 Martha Matthews' scrapbook with many photographs and several postcards from her tour of duty with the American Red Cross in occupied Germany. These include pictures of servicemen, Red Cross recreation facilities, bombed-out locations in Germany, and locations throughout Germany, Italy, France, and Switzerland.