

A Guide to the Lewis Dabney Crenshaw Papers

Lewis Dabney Crenshaw Papers 1917-1936

1917-1936

A Collection in the Special Collections Department 2681
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1997

History

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Title Statement

A Guide to the Lewis Dabney Crenshaw Papers

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Descriptive Summary

Collection Number

2681

Language

English

Collector

Mrs. Lewis Crenshaw

Extent

ca. 8,000 items

Repository

University of Virginia. Library. Special Collections Dept.

Alderman Library
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903
USA

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open to research.

Use Restrictions

See the [University of Virginia Library's use policy](#).

Acquisition Information

This collection was given to the Library by Mrs. Lewis Crenshaw of New York City, on May 24, 1947.

Funding Note

Funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

Preferred Citation

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

This information was taken from Crenshaw's obituary notice which appeared in The University of Virginia Alumni News, February 1947.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection consists of ca. 8,000 items (12 Hollinger boxes, three linear feet) 1917-1936, and includes correspondence, financial papers, photographs and war service records pertaining to the operation of the European Bureau in Paris, France, the activities of University of Virginia alumni in World War I, the Jefferson [Founder's] Day Centennial Celebration in Paris, France, 1919, and the creation of the University of Virginia World War Veterans Association. The photographs and papers were gathered by Bureau Director Lewis Crenshaw (1884-1947) as part of the service of the UVA European Bureau and were later used to begin collecting information for a UVA War Record. All of the material is arranged chronologically except the photographs of the UVA alumni in uniform and their service records which are filed according to the last name of the alumnus.

The war service records contains the following information about alumni: name, place and date of enlistment, place and date of discharge, dates of foreign service, rank and organization at time of discharge, training camps attended, casualties, operations engaged in, honors and decorations, promotions, and non-military war service. This information is not necessarily complete for each alumnus. Both the service records and photographs are arranged alphabetically by the last name of the alumnus.

The correspondence files of this collection contain letters from family members concerning the status of soldiers, contributions to the upkeep of the UVA European Bureau, personal letters to Crenshaw, letters from UVA faculty and staff, copies of Crenshaw's correspondence, letters with addresses, rank, and war service records for some alumni, and letters from the soldiers themselves, often describing their experiences in Europe.

The UVA European Bureau opened an office on 8 Rue de Richelieu, Paris, to meet the needs of alumni serving overseas. Crenshaw maintained photographs and war service records for alumni, forwarded mail and cables, stored personal effects of the soldiers, handled routine financial matters, corresponded with family members, and often purchased and shipped articles for UVA men.

Crenshaw apparently kept these records hoping to eventually publish a War Record as a permanent record of the contributions of University of Virginia alumni to World War I. In 1930, members of the old Overseas

Executive Committee, chaired by Ernest Schoen, began corresponding about the need for a War Record and a Reunion in France. The University of Virginia World War Veterans Association was formed in May of 1932, with Crenshaw as Director. The Association was authorized by the Board of Managers of the Alumni Association to compile, edit, and publish a complete record of activities of the alumni, faculty, and students of the University during the War, and to solicit the necessary funds for carrying out their plans.

The Association planned for the book to include the service record and a photograph of each alumnus, and to have special articles on the different Virginia units, the activities of the faculty and students, and to have a special section on the eighty alumni who died in the conflict. Perhaps due chiefly to the ravages of The Great Depression, the Association was unable to raise enough money to finance the book, although Crenshaw and Schoen were still discussing the war history as late as 1938. Crenshaw was never paid for his earlier work in compiling data for the book and often worked at his own expense.

Holsinger photographs present in this collection include: the UVA Ambulance Sections 16 & 17, U.S. Army Ambulance Service, with members identified; the UVA [Student Army Training Corp ?] unit in front of the Rotunda; a swearing-in ceremony of the [Student Army Training Corp ?] in front of the Rotunda; the University Book Store (formerly known as Temperance Hall) and the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Ticket Office; Corner Businessmen and Henry Martin standing in front of the University Drug Store, Anderson's Bookstore, and the Southern Railway System Ticket Office; the University Book Store and Tea Room, later used as the Student Health Building; and Henry Martin, posing beside the University Bell.

For more information concerning UVA alumni in World War I, please consult 957-h.

ORGANIZATION

All of the material is arranged chronologically except the photographs of the UVA alumni in uniform and their service records which are filed according to the last name of the alumnus.

Container List

Biographical Information re Lewis Dabney Crenshaw, including photograph

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 1

Constitution and By-laws of the UVA World War Veterans Association

Unit Date ca. 1932

Container Box 1

Correspondence

Unit Date 1917 Jan-1918 Jun

Container Box 1

Extent

(6 folders)

Correspondence

Unit Date 1918 Jul-Oct 1-18

Container Box 2

Extent

(6 folders)

Correspondence

Unit Date 1918 Oct 19-Dec

Container Box 3

Extent

(5 folders)

Correspondence

Unit Date 1919 Jan-Mar

Container Box 4

Extent

(6 folders)

Correspondence

Unit Date 1919 Apr-Sept, 1920

Container Box 5

Extent

(3 folders)

Correspondence

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 5

Correspondence of the UVA World War Veterans Association

Unit Date 1932 Apr-1936 Jun

Container Box 5

Extent

(3 folders)

Correspondence re Jefferson Day Centennial Celebration, Paris, France

Unit Date 1919 Mar 9-April 25

Container Box 5

Correspondence with Ernest "King" Schoen

Unit Date 1932-1935, 1937, 1938

Container Box 5

Financial Papers: American Express Co.accounts, receipts

Unit Date 1920 Jan-1925 Dec

Container Box 6

Financial Papers: Hotel Bills

Unit Date 1917 Dec-1919 Jun

Container Box 6

Financial Papers: Miscellaneous

Unit Date 1910, 1917-1933

Container Box 6

Financial Papers: Miscellaneous

Unit Date 1919-1933

Container Box 6

Lists of UVA World War Veterans, Especially re Donations for an UVA War Veterans Directory

Unit Date ca. 1918-1932

Container Box 6

Miscellaneous

Unit Date ca. 1918-1936

Container Box 6

Papers re UVA Overseas Dinners

Unit Date ca. 1918

Container Box 7

Papers re Jefferson Day Centennial Celebration, Paris, France

Unit Date 1919 Mar-Jul

Container Box 7

Photographs: Abbot - Butcher

Unit Date ca. 1917-1919

Container Box 7

Photographs: Cabell - Davis

Unit Date ca. 1917-1919

Container Box 7

Photographs: Derr - Harwood

Unit Date ca. 1917-1919

Container Box 7

Photographs: Hathaway - Julian

Unit Date ca. 1917-1919

Container Box 7

Photographs: Lancaster - Nash

Unit Date ca. 1917-1919

Container Box 7

Photographs: Ochs - Shepherd, R.G.

Unit Date ca. 1917-1919

Container Box 8

Photographs: Shepherd, W.R. - Warren

Unit Date ca. 1917-1919

Container Box 8

Photographs: Watkins - Wylie, unidentified

Unit Date ca. 1917-1919

Container Box 8

Photographs: Alsop - Fife

Unit Date ca. 1917-1919

Container Box 8

Photographs: Letcher - Williamson, unidentified

Unit Date ca. 1917-1919

Container Box 8

Photographs: Miscellaneous

Unit Date ca. 1917-1919

Container Box 8

Reports of the UVA European Bureau

Unit Date 1917 Dec-Feb, June

Container Box 8

War Service Records: A-F

Unit Date ca. 1919

Container Box 9

Extent

(8 folders)

War Service Records: G-O

Unit Date ca. 1919

Container Box 10

Extent

(6 folders)

War Service Records: P-Z

Unit Date ca. 1919

Container Box 11

Extent

(6 folders)

Lewis Dabney CrenshawCalendar

Unit Date 1919

Container Box 12

Index to Lewis Dabney CrenshawCalendar

Unit Date 1919

Container Box 12

Photograph of the UVA [Student Army Training Corp ?] unit in front of the Rotunda

Unit Date ca. 1917

Container Oversize Photograph Folder (Box)

Military Portraits

Unit Date ca. 1918

Container Oversize Photograph Folder (Box)

UVA Ambulance Sections 16 & 17, U.S. Army Ambulance Service, with members indentified

Unit Date ca. 1917

Container Oversize Photograph Folder (Box)

Fred Harper

Unit Date ca. 1917

Container Oversize Photograph Folder (Box)