

Presslor, Maude M. Papers

Maude M. Presslor Papers, 1913-1972

1913-1972

Title Statement

Presslor, Maude M. PapersGuide to the Maude M. Presslor Papers Mss. Acc. 2009.593

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Mss. Acc. 2009.593

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/1396

Unit Date

1913-1972

Unit Date

1943-1972

Language

English

Creator

Presslor, Maude M., 1898-1972

Extent

1.40 Linear Feet

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access:

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Acquisition Information:

Purchase.

Preferred Citation:

Maude M. Presslor Papers, Special Collections Research Center, Swem Library, College of William and Mary.

Biographical Information:

Maude Marie Presslor (1898-1972) was born Maude M. Mathas, and lived with her husband, John Dee Mathas (1898-1972) a fire chief, and three children in Montezuma, Indiana. She was a member of the WSCS, the Women's Society of Christian Service.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains the diaries, correspondence, and biographic material of Maude M. (Mathas) Presslor (1898-1972) of Montezuma, Indiana from 1913-1970. Earlier papers and material relate to Presslor's life as a teenager and young adult during the World War I period. Letters from friends serving in France and a baby book detailing the early years of her three children, Betty Jean (Presslor) Montgomery, Frank Richard Presslor, and David Lowell Presslor, date from this period. Later papers and material from the World War II period include letters from her sons serving in the armed services as well as diary entries and newspaper clippings concerning major events of the conflict, such as the first use of atomic weapons. Post-war papers and material focus more on her family life and the activities of her children and grandchildren. Presslor's diaries from this era include references to and newspaper clippings concerning major events of the Cold War period, such as political assassinations and military engagements in southeast Asia. The collection also includes ephemera, such as bills, brochures, and tickets from Presslor's travels with her husband, John Dee Presslor.

Keywords

Clippings (information artifacts)
Correspondence
Diaries
Greeting cards
Photographs
Indiana--Social life and customs--20th century
United States--Description and travel
Women--Diaries
World War, 1939-1945--Women--United States

Physical Characteristics or Technical Requirements:

The fragile nature of this material may limit handling: brittle clippings and notes are inserted between diary pages and fastened with rusting clips and needles.

Arrangement of Materials:

Organized into three series: Series 1: Diaries; Series 2: Correspondence; and Series 3: Biographic Material.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 1: Diaries

Unit ID id65624

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/135447

Unit Date 1913-1915, 1943-1970

Scope and Contents

This series contains over thirty diaries written and maintained by Maude Presslor through various periods of her life. Earlier diaries center on her social, family, and school life as a teenager (then Maude Mathas) in Montezuma, Indiana. She frequently discusses her interactions with friends, including her future husband John Dee Presslor. Later diaries from the World War II era focus on her family life and the participation of her sons, Richard Frank and David Lowell, in the armed services. Presslor also mentions major geopolitical events in her entries, such as the Allied invasion of Normandy, the death of President Franklin Roosevelt, and the surrenders of Germany and Japan. In addition to her written entries, Presslor's diaries include newspaper clippings detailing similar events. Diaries from the decades following World War II focus more on Presslor's daily activities, such as her participation in Women's Society of Christian Services social functions. She also writes at length about the activities of her children and grandchildren. As with the World War II period, these diaries include references and newspaper clippings concerning major news stories. Topics include presidential elections, political assassinations, and U.S. engagements in Southeast Asia.

Box 1

Unit ID id64967

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/135450

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Diaries

Unit ID id65628

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/135453

Unit Date 1913-1915, 1943-1945

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (folder)

Diaries

Unit ID id65629

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/135454

Unit Date 1946-1948

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (folder)

Diaries

Unit ID id65630

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/135455

Unit Date 1949-1951

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 3 (folder)

Diaries

Unit ID id65631

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/135456

Unit Date 1952-1953

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 4 (folder)

Diaries**Unit ID** id65632**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/135457**Unit Date** 1954-1957**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 5 (folder)**Diaries****Unit ID** id65633**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/135458**Unit Date** 1958, 1960**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 6 (folder)**Diaries****Unit ID** id65634**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/135459**Unit Date** 1961-1965**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 7 (folder)**Diaries****Unit ID** id65635**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/135460**Unit Date** 1966-1968**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 8 (folder)**Diaries****Unit ID** id65636**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/135461**Unit Date** 1969-1970**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 9 (folder)**Series 2: Correspondence****Unit ID** id65625**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/135448**Unit Date** 1918-1921, 1934, 1943-1969**Scope and Contents**

This series contains written exchanges between Maude Presslor and her friends and family. Earlier correspondents from the World War I period include frequent letters from her friend, James "Jim" L. Carson, serving in France. Other letters from this period include congratulatory notes from her mother, Mrs. George Mathas, and aunt, Mrs. M.J. Mathas, on the birth of her first child, Betty Jeane Presslor. During the World War II period, Presslor exchanged frequent letters with her sons, Frank serving in the Army Air Forces and David serving in the Navy. In addition to their letters, Presslor's sons also sent telegrams detailing their travels and activities throughout the war. Post-World War II correspondence centers more on family life and the activities of Presslor's children and grandchildren. In addition to formal letters, the series also contains personal notes, greeting cards, postcards, and invitations sent to Presslor by her friends and family.

Box 2**Unit ID** id65637**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/135451**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)**Correspondence****Unit ID** id65638**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/135462**Unit Date** 1918-1921, 1934**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)**Container** 1 (folder)**Correspondence****Unit ID** id65639**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/135463**Unit Date** 1943-1944**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)**Container** 2 (folder)**Correspondence****Unit ID** id65640**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/135464**Unit Date** 1944-1945**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)**Container** 3 (folder)**Correspondence****Unit ID** id65641**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/135465**Unit Date** 1952-1959**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)**Container** 4 (folder)**Western Union Telegrams****Unit ID** id65642**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/135466**Unit Date** 1944-1945**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)**Container** 5 (folder)**Postcards****Unit ID** id65643**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/135467**Unit Date** 1944-1957**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)**Container** 6 (folder)

Greeting Cards and Invitations

Unit ID id65644

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/135468

Unit Date 1950-1969

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 7 (folder)

Series 3: Biographic Material

Unit ID id65626

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/135449

Unit Date 1921-1928, 1944-1972

Scope and Contents

This series contains biographic material collected by Maude Presslor throughout various periods of her life. Items include thirteen black and white photographs of family members and local events. A baby book maintained from 1921 to 1928 provides information on the birth and early years of Presslor's three children, Betty Jean, Richard Frank, and David Lowell. The book also includes several black and white photographs as well as locks of hair. Later material focuses on Presslor's travels with her husband in states such as Florida, Arkansas, and Tennessee. Related items includes expenditure books, pamphlets, brochures, bills, and tickets. The series also contains various ephemera, such as magazine subscription slips. The series and the collection concludes with materials related to the 1972 deaths and funerals of Presslor's husband, John Dee, and her son, Richard Frank.

Box 2

Unit ID id65645

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/135452

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Photographs

Unit ID id65646

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/135469

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 8 (folder)

Baby Book

Unit ID id65647

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/135470

Unit Date 1921-1928

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 9 (folder)

Religious Material

Unit ID id65648

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/135471

Unit Date 1944, 1956, 1968

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 10 (folder)

Travel Material**Unit ID** id65649**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/135472**Unit Date** 1946-1961**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)**Container** 11 (folder)**Ephemera****Unit ID** id65650**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/135473**Unit Date** 1947-1969**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)**Container** 12 (folder)**Presslor Family Funerals****Unit ID** id65651**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/135474**Unit Date** 1972**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)**Container** 13 (folder)