

Guide to the Helen Rodgers-Weber Letters MS 00211

Helen Rodgers Weber Letters
1937-1943

Title Statement

Guide to the Helen Rodgers-Weber Letters MS 00211

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS 00211

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/8068

Unit Date

1937-1943

Unit Date

1943

Language

English

source

Weber, Helen Rodgers

Creator

Weber, Charles Anthony

Creator

Rodgers, Lettie J Hubbard

Creator

Rodgers, Clarence G

Creator

Rodgers, Irma Jean

Extent

0.5 Linear Feet

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

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Biographical / Historical

Helen E. (Rodgers) Weber, 1918-2006, Evansville, Indiana, was a life-long teacher. Her husband, 1st Lt. Charles A. Weber, was killed in 1944 while serving in the Air Force as a pilot in England.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of incoming correspondence for Helen Rodgers Weber, with the bulk written over a few months in 1943. The letters are mostly authored by Helen's mother Lettie, father Clarence, and sister Jean. The content reflects on daily life in Indiana during WWII.

Helen, also known as Honan, marries Charles Anthony Weber in May 1943. The tight-knit family often addresses their letters to both Helen and Charles and sign each letter as a family unit.

Other authors include friends and extended family members, as well as a single letter written by Charles Weber. Charles, a pilot in the 9th A.A.F, was killed in England in 1944, less than a year after they married.

Keywords

United States. Air Force, 9th.

Indiana--Social life and customs--20th century

World War, 1939-1945--United States

Weber, Helen Rodgers

Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/272107

Unit Date 1937 August-1938 June

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Contains letters from Helen's mother, Lettie, as well as Helen's friend, Virginia. There are letters addressed to Charlie and to Lettie. The content includes discussions of Helen finishing school and attending college, of various colds going around, news of Irma Jean, Helen's grandmother, their love of singing, and Charlie's visit to the dentist.

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/272108

Unit Date 1939 June-1940 February

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Contains letters from Helen's grandmother, with one addressed to Helen's mother, Lettie. The content covers family news and minor details of every day life.

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/272109

Unit Date 1941 September-1942 September

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 3 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Contains a letter from Helen's friend, Marian, in addition to letters from Helen's immediate family members. The letter from Mary Ellen Cornwell asks if Charles still likes his training.

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/272110

Unit Date 1942 October-December

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 4 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Contains the only letter in this collection written by Charlie, December 31, 1942, Lubbock Army Flying School, to Helen. Charlie refers to Helen as his "darling Honan". He describes the details of his training. The content of letters from other friends and family spans from baking cookies for soldiers to inquiring about Charlie's whereabouts.

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/272111

Unit Date 1943 January-February

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 5 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Contains correspondence from Helen's mother, father, and sister, Jean.

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/272112

Unit Date 1943 May

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 6 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Contains a letter to Charles from a friend, Richard K. Turney. In it, Dick describes how he was drafted as a flight instructor P-47's and P-40's, rather than seeing combat as he wishes. Letterhead is Dale Mabry Field, Tallahassee, Florida.

In another letter, Mrs. Rodgers writes an impassioned letter to Charles regarding the hardships of soldier's wives and young families. She writes of their upcoming marriage. She describes Helen as a frail little girl who will need every attention and every consideration.

Included is the rare letter written by Helen (known as "Honan"), dated May 20, 1943, which discusses her wedding plans with Charles.

Also contains a letter from Charles' father who owned the Weber Equipment Co., Evansville, Indiana.

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/272113

Unit Date 1943 June 1-4

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 7 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Contains letters from Helen's mother, Lettie, and her sister, Jean. The letters are now addressed to both Helen and Charles. In them, the family talks of daily life. Lettie remarks that Helen was cheated out of a lot by having such a "hurrying up affair" in regards to their wedding. Jeanie sends affectionate, teasing letters and writes that she has been flying upside down with Charles.

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/272114

Unit Date 1943 June 5-8

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 8 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Contains letters from Helen's parents and grandmother, as well as the receipt from Kruckemeyer and Cohn for Helen's wedding ring.

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/272115

Unit Date 1943 June 11-15

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 9 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Contains letters from Helen's mother, father, and sister, Jean. Letters are typically addressed to both Honan and Charles. One letter includes an article from an unknown newspaper titled "Big Transport Banked and Paratrooper Fell Out Door".

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/272116

Unit Date 1943 June 16-20

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 10 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Contents consist mostly of letters from Helen's mother, in which she passes along local news. Having small local news.

Correspondence**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/272117**Unit Date** 1943 June 21-23**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 11 (folder)**Language** English**Scope and Contents**

Contains letters from Helen's mother discussing local weddings, Dad's schedule, and vegetables from their Victory garden. Includes Mother's recipes for griddle cakes, pancakes, tomato sauce as well as instructions for making spaghetti. Includes a letter from Helen's grandmother and grandfather. Jean urges Helen to be careful while Charles is gone and not let anyone know she's alone.

Correspondence**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/272118**Unit Date** 1943 June 24-29**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 12 (folder)**Language** English**Scope and Contents**

Contains letters from family and friends, including Anne Benninghof. Helen's family shares news of daily activities and that her father is serving on the conductor's board and off to Chicago often. The content mentions family members dealing with illnesses. One letter includes receipts from various shops. A letter from Lettie wishes Helen could have come during Charles' visit. It ends with a red lipsticked kiss, but it is unclear whether it is from Lettie or Jean.

Correspondence**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/272119**Unit Date** 1943 July 1-4**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 13 (folder)**Language** English**Scope and Contents**

Lettie continues to share the reaction of friends to Helen's wedding at the end of May. Includes a lipsticked kiss at the closing of a letter, possibly from Jeanie.

Correspondence**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/272120**Unit Date** 1943 July 5-8**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 14 (folder)**Language** English**Scope and Contents**

Contains letters from Helen's family, empty envelopes, and a check stub.

Correspondence**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/272121**Unit Date** 1943 July 8-14**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 15 (folder)**Language** English**Scope and Contents**

Contains letters from Jean and Lettie about pickling, blackberries, late wedding gifts still arriving, and comments on Helen's grandmother being weak. An article from an unknown newspaper, "Plane Tows

Glider With Ton Cargo Across Atlantic" is included.

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/272122

Unit Date 1943 July 15-19

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 16 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Contains letters from Helen's mother Lettie, her sister Jean, and various friends, sharing news of their personal lives.

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/272123

Unit Date 1943 July 20-26

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 17 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Contains letters from Helen's family and A.M. Hubbard.

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/272124

Unit Date 1943 July 26-29

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 18 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Contains letters from Aunt Hazel and family, Helen's grandmother, and Mother, Dad, and Jean.

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/272125

Unit Date 1943 July 30-August 4

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 19 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Contains letters from Dad, as well as letters from Lettie concerning sewing Helen's dresses, asking about her permanent, and the milk shortage.

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/272126

Unit Date 1943 August 5-10

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 20 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Contains a typed letter from Uncle Herschel and Aunt Hazel discussing the effect of war on a young soldier in the local hospital and remarks how Helen loves to fly. Includes affectionate letters from Jean, Helen's mother, and Irma.

Correspondence**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/272127**Unit Date** 1943 August 11-20**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 21 (folder)**Language** English**Scope and Contents**

Contains letters from Dad, Mother, and Jean. Includes a postcard from Helen's grandmother and a letter from Mrs. Becker.

Correspondence**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/272128**Unit Date** 1943 August 21-25**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 22 (folder)**Language** English**Scope and Contents**

Contains letters from Helen's Mother and Jean as well as a mailing from the Book-of-the-Month-Club about Helen's subscription. Jean was staying with Helen during this time, so letters from their parents address both of the girls. Also included is a letter from Helen's friend Betty.

Correspondence**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/272129**Unit Date** 1943 August 26-October 24**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 23 (folder)**Language** English**Scope and Contents**

Contains letters from Helen's friend Virginia, Helen's Aunt Mary, Mrs. John G. Davidson, and a humorous letter from her sister, Jean.

Correspondence**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/272130**Unit Date** Undated**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 24 (folder)**Language** English**Scope and Contents**

Undated letters from various family and friends, as well as birthday cards.