Beverly Simonton Kelly Letters

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1949-1953, 1998

Title Statement

Beverly Simonton Kelly LettersGuide to the Beverly Simonton Kelly Letters UA 5.233

Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections Research Center

William & Mary Special Collections Research Center
Earl Gregg Swem Library
400 Landrum Dr
Williamsburg, Virginia
Business Number: 757-221-3090
spcoll@wm.edu
URL: https://libraries.wm.edu/libraries-spaces/special-collections

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-05-15 12:59:19 -0400.

Language Usage: English

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID
UA 5.233

Unit ID
/repositories/2/resources/8069

Unit Date
1949-1953, 1998

Language
English

Creator
Kelly, Beverly Simonton

Extent
1.0 Linear Feet

Repository
Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

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Preferred Citation

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Biographical / Historical

Beverly Simonton Kelly, from York, Pennsylvania, entered William & Mary in 1949 and graduated in 1953. She was an active and engaged undergraduate, serving on/participating in a number of activities, including the Judicial Committee, Delta Delta Delta, and W&M Choir.

Scope and Contents

This collection includes letters written by Beverly Simonton Kelly to her parents from her freshman year at William & Mary in 1949, until her graduation in 1953.

Her letters mention and/or discuss a number of subjects, including (but not limited to) registration, purchasing her Duc cap for $1.00, her first curtsy to Lord Botetourt, freshman customs, the honor system, her class schedules, cost of books, social rules for women, the campus, social events and activities, Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, dating, sororities, faculty/staff, the cafeteria, grievances about the bus which transported freshman out-of-state women between campus and Ludwell, wearing ribbons on the weekends instead of Duc cap, field hockey, fraternity lodges, Homecoming, W&M athletics, the Pagoda Room, the Judicial Committee, Carl "Pappy" Fehr and the W&M Choir.

She also describes several instances of feeling overwhelmed by her classes and commitments, concerns about grades, and the mental health of her friends. She mentions several cases of students getting the mumps in 1950, Constance Appleby (November 1949), the school laundry burning (1950), a coal shortage (1950) which almost closed the campus, her Supper Club entertaining the campus "Jewish group," "Common Glory," Dr. Chow - her Chines Government instructor (1951), Phillies baseball, roommate problems, Rushing, exams, parties, elections, movies she saw, and also references the Korean War.

Kelly also refers to the Athletic Scandal of 1951 and one letter describes the campus vibe after the resignation of the Dean, Nelson Marshall. She wrote, "Everyone of my instructors today spoke of his resignation and felt that W&M has just suffered its greatest loss." She also states that while one published article suggests new president, Alvin Duke Chandler, was welcomed by students, in fact, the students were solidly behind the faculty and questioned his qualification to be president. In addition, Kelly also wrote about the investigation into the fraternity lodges and the accusation of embezzlement against an administrator

Additionally, her letters detail the start of her courtship with her future husband, W&M alumnus James S. Kelly.

Keywords

College of William and Mary--History--20th century

Women--Education (Higher)--United States

Women--Education--Virginia

College of William and Mary--Students--Social life and customs

Dating (Social customs)

College of William and Mary--Alumni and alumnae

College of William and Mary. Choir

Fehr, Carl A.
Delta Delta Delta. Alpha Mu Chapter (College of William and Mary)
College of William and Mary--Societies, etc.

Description of Subordinate Components

Box 1
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/606910
Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Letters
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/272131
Unit Date 1949 September-October
Mixed Materials 1 (Box)
Container 1 (folder)

Letters
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/272132
Unit Date 1949 November-December
Mixed Materials 1 (Box)
Container 2 (folder)

Letters
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/272133
Unit Date 1950 January
Mixed Materials 1 (Box)
Container 3 (folder)

Letters
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/272134
Unit Date 1950 February
Mixed Materials 1 (Box)
Container 4 (folder)

Letters
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Unit Date 1950 April-June
Mixed Materials 1 (Box)
Container 5 (folder)

Letters
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Unit Date 1950 September-October
Mixed Materials 1 (Box)
Container 6 (folder)

Letters
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Unit Date 1950 November-December
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Container 7 (folder)

Letters
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Unit Date 1951 January
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Unit Date 1951 February-March
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Letters
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Unit Date 1951 April
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Letters
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Unit Date 1951 May-June
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Box 2
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Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

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Unit Date 1951 September-October
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Letters
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Letters
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Unit Date 1953 April-June
Mixed Materials 2 (Box)
Container 11 (folder)

Miniature Felt Duc Caps, 45th Reunion Dinner Program
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/272153
Unit Date circa 1953, 1998 October 24
Mixed Materials 2 (Box)
Container 12 (folder)