



SHIPPENSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Alexander Stewart, M.D. House
52 West King St, P.O. BOX 539, Shippensburg, PA, 17257

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: **Autograph Books (1880-1925)**

2010.076.001

Material: Books

Volume: 0.50 linear feet (1 document box, 9 file folders)

Donation: Gift of various donors.

Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Autograph books were commonly used by students during the 19th century. Students would circulate the books among their fellow students to obtain the autographs of individuals with whom they attended school. Some books even included signatures from family members. Typically accompanying the signatures were short and simple messages left by the individual who signed the book. In the messages the classmates would often profess their affection for or friendship with the person whose book they were signing or offered pieces of advice for the person to follow.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries the use of autograph books began to wane when the publication of school yearbooks began to rise in popularity. The autograph books in this collection belong to: Mary Dykeman, Mary Katherine (Katie) Omwake, Anna Mabel Geiger, Mamie Halter, Grace Wolf, Harry Etter, Margaret "Peg" M. Hubley, William [?], and Martha [?].

Mary B. Dykeman (Dec. 9, 1873 - Mar. 15, 1883) was the daughter of Newton L. and Ella Snodgrass Dykeman. In 1861 in Des Moines, Iowa, Newton enlisted in Company D, Iowa 2nd Infantry Regiment but was later commissioned an officer in the Regular Army 16th Infantry Regiment. He was promoted to Full Captain then to Brevet Major in 1862. Newton was mustered out in 1867. After the Civil War, in 1871, he moved to Shippensburg. Dykeman became a prominent member of the community and served on the board of trustees at the Cumberland Valley State Normal School (now Shippensburg University). Mary died at the age of nine in 1883 due to tubercular meningitis.

Mary Katherine Omwake (Jul. 15, 1862 – Jan. 17, 1948) was the daughter of Henry and Eveline Beaver Omwake. Throughout her life, she remained unmarried and served as a member of the Grace Reformed Church in Greencastle.

Anna Mabel Geiger (May 6, 1878 - May 24, 1948) was the daughter of Charles Geiger and Anna Long. She received her Bachelor's degree from Cumberland Valley State Normal School in 1897 and a Masters Degree from Dickinson College a year later. Mabel, as she was called, taught school at West Pittston before marrying Dr. Edgar Heckman, a Methodist minister. During her life, she was active in the church, a conference secretary at the Women's Home Missionary Society, and a member of the Daughters of 1812 in Shippensburg.

Mamie Halter (Oct. 1, 1868 – Jun. 18, 1952) was the daughter of Israel Halter and Abbie Ocker, and the wife of William A. Baker. She was a lifelong Shippensburg resident and member of the Church of God.

Grace Wolf (1877 - Oct. 1948) was the daughter of Harry Wolf and Eliza Beck, and the wife of Ambrose P. Grove. Born in Boiling Springs, Wolf moved to Shippensburg at the age of 2 with her family. She was an honor student and graduate of the Cumberland Valley State Normal School. Wolf was a teacher at Shippensburg High School and a member of the Church of God.

Harry Etter (Mar. 14, 1884 - Jun. 16, 1965) was from Marion, Pennsylvania and attended Chambersburg Academy until his graduation in 1902. He earned a medical degree from New York University in 1907 and served as an intern at Bellevue Hospital in New York City from 1907 until 1909. Etter also served in the U.S. Army as a physician from 1909 to 1913. In 1913 Dr. Etter set up practice in Shippensburg. From 1922 to 1955 he served the community as an eye, ear, nose, and throat doctor. Dr. Etter was married to Helen Augusta Stough. He was a member of Memorial Lutheran Church, the American Medical Association, Pennsylvania Medical Association, and the Medical Society of Cumberland County.

Margaret "Peg" M. Hubley (1906 - Feb. 8 1991) was a native of Shippensburg and the daughter of Martin A. and Margaret K. Hubley. She was a graduate of Cumberland Valley State Normal School and a New York University. During her adult life, she lived in Sussex, New Jersey and served as a teacher and school administrator. She was a member of the Sussex County and New Jersey Retired Education Association, United Methodist Church, the AARP, and Sussex County Association for Retarded Persons.

The last names of William and Martha could not be determined. Therefore the ability to understand who they were is limited.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Autograph Books are housed in 1 document box and 9 folders. Each folder contains a separate book. The materials are organized in chronological order and range in date from 1880 to 1925.

The autograph books contain notes, quotations, and signatures from friends and family members. Several of the books were used over a one to four year period. Unfortunately for many of the books it is unclear where the students attended school and received the signatures. Fortunately, Margaret "Peg" M. Hubley's autograph book clearly notes that it is from the Shippensburg High School Class of 1925.

The books in the collection belonged to: Mary Dykeman, Mary Katherine (Katie)

Omwake, Anna Mabel Geiger, William [?], and Martha [?], Mamie Halter, Grace Wolf, Harry Etter, and Margaret "Peg" M. Hubley. Many of these individuals have a connection to Shippensburg families and would be a useful tool for genealogists or researchers interested in learning more about school life in the late 19th and early 20th century.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 – 2010.076.001

AUTOGRAPH BOOKS

- Folder 01) Mary Dykeman – 1880-1883
- Folder 02) Mary Katherine (Katie) Omwake – 1883-1890
- Folder 03) Anna Mabel Geiger – 1885-1888
- Folder 04) William [?] – 1887-1888
- Folder 05) Martha [?] – 1887-1889
- Folder 06) Mamie Halter – 1888-1892
- Folder 07) Grace Wolf – 1889-1895
- Folder 08) Harry Etter – 1900-1902
- Folder 09) Margaret "Peg" M. Hubley – 1925

Collection processed by Wesley Decker, August 2010.