

A1824

Ruth Eliot Johnson Collection, 1848-1960

6 folders

Processed by Dennis Northcott, June 2010

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REPOSITORY

Missouri History Museum Archives

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DONOR INFORMATION

Collection was donated by Ruth Eliot Johnson in 1982.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Ruth Eliot Johnson was the granddaughter of Thomas Lamb Eliot (1841-1936), a Unitarian minister in Portland, Oregon. She was the great-granddaughter of William Greenleaf Eliot, one of the founders of Washington University in St. Louis.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection includes several letters written by William Greenleaf Eliot; papers relating to Washington University; papers relating to the Church of the Messiah; and papers of the Eliot family. The papers are arranged in the following series: William Greenleaf Eliot Letters; Washington University; Eliot Family; Publications; and Miscellaneous.

William Greenleaf Eliot Letters Series

Folder 1

- 1848 Jan Letter signed W.G.E. [William Greenleaf Eliot] to James.
- 1864 Dec 27 Letter signed W.G. Eliot [William Greenleaf Eliot] to Sarah [Sarah Smith].
- 1865 Aug 11 Letter signed W.G. Eliot [William Greenleaf Eliot] to Sarah [Sarah Smith].
- 1876 Apr 6 Letter signed W.G. Eliot [William Greenleaf Eliot] to Sarah [Sarah Smith].
- 1886 June 1 Postcard signed W.G.E. [William Greenleaf Eliot] to Rev. T.L. Eliot, Portland, Oregon. Postcard is postmarked "St. Louis."
- [no year] June 19 Letter signed W.G. Eliot [William Greenleaf Eliot] to Sarah [Sarah Smith].
- no date Letter signed W.G. Eliot [William Greenleaf Eliot] to Sarah [Sarah Smith].

Washington University Series

Folder 2

- 1884 June 10 Program for the graduating exercises of the advanced and preparatory scientific classes of Smith Academy.
- 1887-1890 Washington University scholarship reports of Minna Charlotte Sessinghaus. (4 items)
- 1888 List of students of the class of 1888 showing their scholarship averages.
- 1890 June 12 Washington University commencement program. (two copies)
- [no year] May 13 Program titled "Washing University, Underground Apartment. "Steenth Annular Combat in Rat or [Hic] and O *Rat* Ion. For Chanticleers' Prize Package."
- 1907 June 20 Program for the exercises at the 46th annual commencement and the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the inauguration of Washington University. (23 pages)
- 1915 Nov Six pages from the *Washington University Record* (Series I, Volume XI, Number II) including article titled "Ralph Waldo Emerson: Aristocrat," by Otto Heller.

- 1928 June 5 “Adventures in Idealism”: Typescript address delivered at the commencement exercises of Washington University, June 5, 1928, by the Reverend Christopher Rhodes Eliot, LL.D. (18 pages)
- 1943 Mar 7 Page from the Pictures section of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* titled “Washington University Now 90 Years Old.” Includes the following photographs: old Washington University buildings at west side of 17th Street between St. Charles Street and Washington Ave. and the southwest corner of Washington Ave. and 17th Street; aerial view of Washington University campus; portraits of Rev. Dr. William Greenleaf Eliot and Joseph G. Hoyt; Brookings Hall; students attending a chapel program during World War I; group photo of members of the administration and board of directors in 1891; university’s first observatory at northeast corner of St. Charles and 18th Streets; and group photo of cadet officers of Washington University Reserve Officers Training Corps. **(oversize)**
- 1953 May 24 Photocopy of *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* newspaper clipping titled “‘A Thumbnail History’ of Washington U. by Dean A.S. Langsdorf.”
- 1953 June 9 Washington University centennial award certificate awarded to Reverend William Greenleaf Eliot, College of Liberal Arts, class of 1888.
- 1953 Oct 11 Photocopy of *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* newspaper article titled “Washington U. Presented Plaque in Honor of Dr. Eliot.”
- no date Handwritten address largely in verse titled “A Prologue” regarding a Junior Exhibition. (10 pages)

Eliot Family Series

Folder 3

- 1866 Mar 21 Receipt of T.L. Elliot [T.L. Eliot] for \$55 on account of school books, St. Louis.
- 1883-1885 Two Saint Louis High School quarterly reports of Minna Sessinghaus.
- 1886 July-Sept Two St. Louis Public Schools examination results of Miss Minna C. Sessinghaus, 2903 Rauschenbach Ave., and a notification of her appointment as a teaching assistant.

- 1887 Mar 13 Pamphlet titled "In Memoriam. Rev. Wm. G. Eliot, D.D., and Rev. Henry Ward Beecher. A Sermon Preached Before the First Congregational Church in Lexington, Mass., Sunday Morning, March 13, 1887."
- 1888 June 1 Handwritten thesis for graduation from Washington University by W.G. Eliot, Jr., titled "The Psychic Basis of Superstition." (14 pages)
- 1891 Mar 8 Letter signed [signature unclear], St. Louis.
- 1891 Aug 18 Attendance certificate of the Sauveur College of Languages, Burlington, Vermont, issued to Miss M.C. Sessinghaus.
- 1897 Mar 30 Typescript copy of will of Abby A. Eliot of St. Louis, Mo.
- 1901 July 1 Typescript letter of S. Waterhouse, St. Louis, Mo., to "dear friend Eliot."
- 1908 Nov 25 Typescript inventory of household items. (2 pages)
- 1909 Jan 3 Letter signed "N." [Norman Flagg], Moro, Illinois, to William G. [Eliot, Jr.]. Mentions the family of W.E. Smith who were in Sicily at the time of the earthquake. Mentions Hugh McKittrick and Reed Stanford. Briefly describes a visit to the Washington University campus while attending an 1888 class reunion.
- 1934 Printed address by George Reeves Throop, chancellor of Washington University, titled "William Greenleaf Eliot," delivered on November 25, 1934, at the Church of the Messiah, St. Louis. (12 pages)
- 1948 Sept 14 Invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Bailey Young to the marriage of their daughter Mary Deane Young to John Southern Vickroy at the Webster Groves Presbyterian Church in Webster Groves, Mo.
- [no year] Dec 5 Invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Sears P. Doolittle to the marriage of their daughter Margaret Ann Doolittle to William Rees Vickroy at the Washington, D.C.
- no date Typescript memorandum signed "E.C.E." regarding the claim against the John Cavender estate arising out of the bond made for John S. Cavender as executor.
- no date Photocopy of newspaper clipping titled "Tribute to Mrs. Eliot" regarding Mrs. William G. Eliot.

no date Envelope of Partridge, photographers, Portland, Oregon, addressed to W.G. Eliot, Jr., St. Louis, Mo.

Folder 4

no date Handwritten essay of M.C. Sessinghaus titled "A Short History of German Literature." (96 pages)

Publications Series

Folder 5

1916 Mar 29 Printed address titled "A Short History of the Church of the Messiah," delivered before the Men's Club of the church by Henry Ware Eliot, Jr.

1917 June Issue of *Service*, published by the Mississippi Valley Trust Company, St. Louis.

1918 Apr "The Lawyer's Part in the War: An Address by Edward C. Eliot, of the St. Louis Bar, Delivered at Washington University, St. Louis, February 25, 1918," reprint from *St. Louis Law Review*, April 1918. (two copies)

1925 Booklet titled "Lincoln in Springfield: A Guide to the Places in Springfield Which Were Associated with the Life of Abraham Lincoln." (30 pages)

1926 Sept Issue of the *Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin*, Volume XIV, Number 7.

1944 Pamphlet titled "A Walk Through Bellefontaine Cemetery." (24 pages)

1947 Booklet titled "St. Louis and the Union Electric Company" by J.W. McAfee. (34 pages)

1950 Oct 29 Issue of "The St. Louis Unitarian," Volume V, Number 8. Published by the First Unitarian Church, 5015 Waterman Blvd., St. Louis, Mo.

1960 Pamphlet titled "125 Years of Unitarianism in Saint Louis, 1835-1960." (12 pages)

Miscellaneous Series

Folder 6

1871 Newspaper clipping titled "Thirty-Six Years in St. Louis" regarding the 36th anniversary of the Church of the Messiah.

- 1886 July Printed assistants' examinations on the subjects of algebra, geography, history and constitution, arithmetic, natural science, and grammar.
- 1887-1889 Handwritten address by E.H. Wuerpel titled "Tio Huerto." (19 pages)
- circa 1893 Printed "Plan of Reorganization of the St. Louis Society of Pedagogy." (8 pages)
- 1893 Dec 31 Program for the service in memory of Rev. John C. Learned, Church of the Unity.
- 1895 Printed Easter greeting from the Church of the Unity, St. Louis.
- 1896 Printed New Year message from Unity Church, St. Louis.
- no date Handwritten address titled "Memory" (7 pages).
- no date Two postcards with sketches of The Alton Memorial Hospital and the Nurses Home, The Alton Memorial Hospital (Alton, Illinois). Postcards include incomplete handwritten note signed Eunice Smith.
- no date Printed card of the Ethical Society, Memorial Hall, 19th and Lucas Place, St. Louis, listing lectures and publications in the reference library for the Greek Ethics Club.