

**Guide to the
MS-114: Elizabeth Peeling Lyon Collection**



**Processed by Laura Heffner
June 2010
Additions Processed by Maci Mark '21 Glatfelter Intern
Fall 2019**

MS – 114: Elizabeth Peeling Lyon Collection

(2 boxes, .75 cubic feet)

Location: Special Collections

Inclusive Dates: 1925-1953

Bulk Dates: 1949-1953

Processed by: Laura Heffner June 2010; Maci Mark '21, Glatfelter Intern Fall 2019

Provenance

Gift of Elizabeth Peeling Lyon, May 2008 and August 2019

Biographical Note

Elizabeth “Betty” Peeling Lyon hailed from Roselle, New Jersey and was the fifth member of her family to attend Gettysburg College. She followed in her uncles’ (James ’21 and Horace ’29), father’s (Albert ’25), and brother’s (Robert “Bob” ’53) footsteps and attended Gettysburg College for her freshman and sophomore years before transferring to Cornell University to pursue a degree in nursing. She became a member of the Independent Women Organization in 1950; the Independent Women had 74 members that year, the largest in the history of the organization. She was a member of the Gettysburg College Choir as an alternate in the 1950-51 season, and as an active member in the 1951-52 season, under the direction of Professor Parker B. “Wags” Wagnild. She participated in both season’s choir tours. She was also a member of the band in 1951-52, under the direction of Paul A. Harner.

Robert “Bob” K Peeling attended Gettysburg College from 1949-1953. He joined the Kappa Delta Rho Fraternity and was very involved on campus. During his first year at Gettysburg he wrote home detailing his active social life and giving updates on the sporting events at Gettysburg College. While there with his sister, they utilized each other’s connections to ensure that all of their friends had dates to parties and dances. He wrote his senior thesis on the history of football at Gettysburg College and reached out to notable Football alumni who wrote back to him.

Scope and Content Notes

This collection consists of 75 letters Betty wrote to her family during her two years at Gettysburg College, a collection of 19 letters and postcards from the 1952 Gettysburg College Choir Tour, and 64 letters from Robert K. Peeling written during his freshman year of 1949-1950. The first group of letters, Betty’s letters home, dates from September 18, 1950 through May 19, 1952, excluding the summer holiday. The letters and postcards from the Gettysburg College Choir Tour date from March 16, 1952 through March 29, 1952. Robert K Peeling’s letters home date from September 20, 1949 through May 23, 1950. Betty’s letters chronicle her college activities, showing specifically her participation in band, choir, the Independent Women, Kappa Delta Rho (her brother’s fraternity), and dorm life. The College Choir letters detail the different

travel stops and performances, which Lyon labeled the letters “The Gettysburg Experience.” Lastly, Robert Peelings letters detail his daily activity, joining Kappa Delta Rho, updates about the football team, and his social life. Robert organized and numbered his letters through March 15, 1950.

This collection also contains items from a wide range of the Peelings involvement on campus. It has items from the Gettysburg College Choir, party favors from the Kappa Delta Rho Fraternity House Party that Betty attended, and sources from Robert’s senior these on the history of football at Gettysburg College, which include letters from Stanley Billheimer and Paul R Sieber. It also includes typed up information on The Independent Women’s Organization, a rabbit’s foot for good luck at games, and various notes about football games. This collection also contains items from other family members who attended the college, Albert S. Peeling’s class of 1925 Commencement invitation, Horace Peeling class of 1929 college bill for tuition and fees, a scrapbook of four photographs taken on campus, Lyon’s freshman name sign, and a photograph of both Robert and Betty on campus.

Subjects

Gettysburg College - College Choir
Parker Wagnild
Kappa Delta Rho
Gettysburg College - Football
Gettysburg College - Band
Gettysburg College - Marching Band
Paul A Harner
Gettysburg College - The Independent Women
Gettysburg College -1950s

Series Description

The collection is divided into five Series. **Series 1:** Betty’s Letters Home, **Series 2:** Gettysburg College Choir Tour Letters, **Series 3:** Robert K Peeling Letters Home, **Series 4:** Campus Involvement and Activities, and **Series 5:** Family Involvement and Photographs (includes photograph and name sign)

Series 2 was put in order and into a scrapbook by Betty Peeling. It is kept in its original order. **Series 3** was put in order and numbered, with the numbers stopping on March 15, 1950, and is kept in its original order.

Box List

Box 1

1-1 Finding Aid and Biographical Information

Series 1 – Bettys Letters Home

- 1-2 September 18, 1950 – September 22, 1950
September 18, 1950, "Dear Mother, Dad, and Mary Ellen," mailed from 38 Stevens Hall (Includes Class Schedule)
September 19, 1950, "Dear Family"
September 22, 1950, "Dear Mother, Dad, and Mel" (Includes Women's Customs list, and program for 119th Opening Exercises of Gettysburg College)
- 1-3 September 25, 1950 – September 30, 1950
September 25, 1950, "Dear Mother, Dad, & Mel" (Includes envelope)
September 28, 1950, "Dear Family"
September 30, 1950
- 1-4 October 6, 1950 –October 7, 1950
October 6, 1950, "Dear Family" (Includes poem about Quiet Hours)
October 7, 1950, "Dear Family" (Includes poem about Quiet Hours)
- 1-5 October 19, 1950 – November 26, 1950
October 19, 1950, "Dear Family"
October 23, 1950, "Dear Mother, Dad, and Melon"
October 30, 1950, "Dear Mother, Dad, and Mary Ellen"
November 12, 1950, "Dear Family"
Undated letter, "Dear Mother, Dad, Mel, and Grandpa"
November 26, 1950, "Dear Family"
- 1-6 November 28, 1950 – December 7, 1950
November 28, 1950, "Dear Dad, Mother, Grandpa, and Mel"
Undated letter, "Dear Family"
Undated letter, "Dear Family"
December 7, 1950, "Dear Mom, Dad, Mel, and Grandpa" (Includes birthday card signed by roommates)
- 1-7 December 10, 1950 – January 8, 1951
December 10, 1950, "Dear Family," (Includes program for Gettysburg College's Commemoration of Christmas bulletin, also dated December 10, 1950)
January 3, 1951, "Dear Mother, Dad, Grandpa, and Mel"
January 8, 1951, "Dear Family"
- 1-8 January 13, 1951 – January 31, 1951
January 13, 1951, "Dear Family"
January 17, 1951, "Dear Family," (Includes a birthday poem to "our dear roommate," 1951 Itinerary [sic] for Gettysburg College Choir, and a copied letter from the Leopold Schepp Foundation concerning scholarship information.)
January 20, 1951, "Dear Family"
January 31, 1951, "Dear Mother, Dad, Mel, and Grandpa"
- 1-9 February 6, 1951 – February 17, 1951
February 6, 1951, "Dear Mother, Dad, Grandpa, and Mel"
February 15, 1951, "Dear Family"
February 17, 1951, "Dear Mother, Dad, Grandpa, and Mel" (Includes College Choir 1951 tour list [February 14, 1951 through May 13, 1951], program for 1950-1951 College Choir Season, 1951 Choir Tour dates, March 30, 1951 through April 11, 1951)
- 1-10 February 26, 1951 – March 10, 1951

- February 26, 1951, "Dear Family"
- March 1, 1951, "Dear Grandpa"
- March 10, 1951, "Dear Mom, Dad, Grandpa, Uncle Ben, Aunt Ida, and Mel"
- 1-11 March 30, 1951 – April 8, 1951
 - March 30, 1951, "Dear Family," mailed from Du Bois, Pennsylvania (Includes page from Gettysburg College Bulletin about Concert Choir with a photo of the choir)
 - April 4, 1951, "Dear Family," mailed from Buffalo, New York
 - April 8, 1951, "Dear Mom, Dad, Grandpa, and Mel," mailed from outside Pittsburg, Pennsylvania
- 1-12 April 13, 1951 – April 30, 1951
 - April 13, 1951, "Dear Family," mailed from 38 Stevens Hall
 - April 25, 1951, "Dear Dad, Mother, Grandpa, and Mel"
 - April 30, 1951, "Dear Family"
- 1-13 May 4, 1951 – May 17, 1951
 - May 4, 1951, "Dear Mom, Dad, Grandpa, and Mel"
 - May 17, 1951, "Dear Mother, Dad, and Mel"
- 1-14 September 17, 1951 – September 24, 1951
 - September 17, 1951, "Dear Mom, Dad, and Mel," mailed from 308 Hanson Hall
 - September 19, 1951, "Dear Family" (Includes Registration Instructions)
 - September 24, 1951, "Dear Family"
- 1-15 October 16, 1951 – [November 9, 1951]
 - October 16, 1951, "Hi, Folks!"
 - October 26, 1951
 - October 30, 1951, "Dear Family"
 - [November 9, 1951], Friday, 10:45 a.m., "Dear Folks"
- 1-16 November 17, 1951, "Dear Family"
- 1-17 November 27, 1951 – December 8, 1951
 - November 27, 1951, "Dear Mother, Dad, and Mel" (Includes letter from Cornell University, dated November 30, 1951)
 - December 8, 1951, "Dear Mother, Dad, and Mel"
- 1-18 January 7, 1952 – February 8, 1952
 - January 7, 1952, "Dear Family"
 - January 9, 1952, "Dear Mother"
 - January 16, 1952, "Dear Mother, Dad, and Mel"
 - January 12, 1952 [misdated], "Dear Family"
 - January 21, 1952, "Dear Family"
 - February 8, 1952, "Dear Mom, Dad, and Mel"
- 1-19 February 11, 1952 – February 17, 1952
 - February 11, 1952, Dear Mom, Dad, and Mel"
 - February 14, 1952, "Dear Family"
 - February 17, 1952, "Dear Mom, Dad, and Mel"
- 1-20 February 21, 1952 – March 11, 1952
 - February 21, 1952, "Dear Dad, Mom, and Mel"
 - March 5, 1952, "Dear Family"
 - March 8, 1952, "Dear Mom, Dad, and Mumpy"
 - March 9, 1952, "Dear Family" (Postcard)

- March 11, 1952, "Dear Mother" (Postcard)
- 1-21 March 15, 1952 – April 2, 1952
 - March 15, 1952, "Dear Mom, Dad, & Mary Ellen"
 - April 2, 1952, "Dear Family"
- 1-22 April 4, 1952 – May 9, 1952
 - [April 4, 1952] Friday Eve., 7:15p.m.. "Dear Family"
 - April 21, 1952, "Dear Family"
 - April 22, 1952, "Dear Family"
 - April 27, 1952, "Dear Family"
 - May 9, 1952, "Dear Folks," mailed from Philadelphia, PA
 - [Undated flyer] Pamphlet for the Barnyard Brawl
- 1-23 May 18, 1952- May 19, 1952
 - May 18, 1952, "Dear Family," mailed from 308 Hanson Hall
 - May 19, 1952, "My Gettysburg Farewell Address" (Includes postcard of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address)
 - May 19, 1952, "Dear Aunt Mary"

Series 2: Gettysburg College Choir Tour Letters

- 1-24 Itinerary and Time table of Spring Tour 1952-March 16, 1952
 - Itinerary and Time Table of Spring Tour 1952
 - March 16, 1952, "Dear Family" mailed from Silver Spring, MD
- Box 2 Postcard Box Section A March 17, 1952-March 22, 1952 Envelope
 - March 17, 1952, "Dear Mom, Dad, and Mel" mailed from Newport News (postcard)
 - March 17 1952, "Dear Folks" mailed from Newport News (postcard)
 - March 18, 1952, "Dear Folks" mailed from Rocky Mount (postcard)
 - March 18, 1952, "Dear Family" mailed from Raleigh (postcard)
 - March 19, 1952, "Dear Mom, Dad, and Mel" mailed from Gaffney (postcard)
 - March 20, 1952, "Dear Family" mailed from Columbia (postcard)
 - March 22, 1952 Envelope with five postcards of Magnolia Gardens in Charleston, South Carolina
- 1-25 March 18-21, 1952-First Baptist News Clipping
 - March 18-21, 1952, "Dear Family" Letter is continued on The St. John Hotel stationary (Includes Envelope)
 - March 7, 1952, Letter from Stuart Benjamin about Betty coming over on March 21st
 - Newport News 1952, First Baptist News clipping about Gettysburg College Choir
- Box 2 Postcard Box Section B March 24, 1952-March 27, 1952
 - March 24, 1952, mailed from Lexington (postcard)
 - March 24, 1952, mailed from Lexington (postcard)
 - March 24, 1952, "Dear Folks" mailed from Lexington (postcard)
 - March 24, 1952, "Dear Mom" mailed from Kannapolis (postcard)
 - March 25, 1952, "Dear Mom, Dad, and Mel" mailed from Roanoke (postcard)
 - March 26, 1952, "Dear Folks" mailed from Roanoke (postcard)
 - March 26, 1952, "Dear Folks" mailed from Stanton (postcard)

- March 27, "Dear Family" mailed from Gettysburg (postcard)
- 1-26 Photos from Tour-The Gettysburgian March 20, 1952
 - 4 pages of photographs from the tour and list from mock wedding
 - March 29, 1952, "Dear Mom, Dad, and Mel" mailed from Gettysburg
 - The Gettysburgian March 20, 1952

Series 3: Robert K Peeling Letters

Subseries 1: Letters Home

- 1-27 Index and Cover Pages
 - Photo of Penn Hall and Photo of Betty Peeling, Bob Peeling, and Dave Hamme
 - WWGC Note
 - Football Note
 - Index to the Letters and Souvenirs of Robert Kent Peeling
- 1-28 September 20, 1949-September 25, 1949
 - September 20, 1949, "Dear Folks" send from #317 Old Dorm
 - September 22, 1949, "Dear folks sent from #317 Old Dorm
 - September 24, 1949
 - September 25, 1949, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm (includes weekly schedule)
- 1-29 September 26, 1949-October 2, 1949
 - September 26, 1949, "Dear Folks"
 - September 27, 1949, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm
 - September 29, 1949, "Dear Folks" sent from 317 Old Dorm
 - October 2, 1949, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm
- 1-30 October 5, 1949-October 24, 1949
 - October 5, 1949, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm
 - October 9, 1949, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm on Gettysburg College stationary
 - October 13, 1949, "Dear Folks"
 - October 16, 1949, "Dear Folks" sent from "317 Old Dorm
 - October 20, 1949, "Dear Folks"
 - October 24, 1949, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm
- 1-31 October 25, 1949-November 2, 1949
 - October 25, 1949, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm
 - October 27-30, 1949, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm (starts letter on the 27 and finishes it on the 30th)
 - November 2, 1949, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm
- 1-32 November 6, 1949-November 12, 1949
 - November 6, 1949, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm
 - November 10, 1949, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm
 - November 12, 1949, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm

Box 2

2-1 November 16, 1949-January 8, 1950

November 16, 1949, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm

November 28, 1949, "Dear Folks"

November 29, 1949, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm

December 4, 1949, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm

December 8, 1949, "Dear Folks"

December 12, 1949, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm

December 15, 1949, "Dear Folks"

January 3, 1950, "Dear Folks"

January 7, 1950, "Dear Folks"

January 8, 1950, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm

2-2 January 12, 1950-January 21, 1950

January 12, 1950, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm

January 13, 1950, "Dear Folks"

January 15, 1950, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm

January 17, 1950, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm

Grades, Bible Final (January 21, 1950), Chemistry Final (January 24, 1950), and Contemporary Civilization Exam (January 25, 1950) included (might have been added after the fact, does not seem to come from a letter)

January 21, 1950, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm

2-3 January 24, 1950-February 12, 1950

January 24, 1950, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm

February 1, 1950, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm (labeled 110b in page numbers, unusual)

February 5, 1950, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm

February 12, 1950, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm

2-4 February 19, 1950-March 19, 1950

February 19, 1950, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm

Valentine Message for Mother (no date)

February 23, 1950, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm

February 26, 1950, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm

February 27, 1950, "Dear Folks"

March 3, 1950, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm (note at the top that Grandma Lida Oakley died today)

March 7, 1950, "Dear Folks"

March 15, 1950, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm (number labeling stops here)

March 19, 1950, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm

2-5 March 21, 1950-April 23, 1950

March 21, 1950, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm

March 26, 1950, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm

March 30, 1950, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm

April 16, 1950, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm

April 21, 1950, "Dear Folks"
April 22, 1950, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm
April 26, 1950, "Dear Folks" sent from 3317 Old Dorm
April 23, 1950, "Dear Mr. Bird" sent from Bob Peeling
2-6 April 29, 1950-Phi Post
April 29, 1950, "Dear Mom"
May 2, 1950, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm
May 8, 1950, "Dear Robert" sent by Gettysburg College
May 9, 1950, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm (includes exam schedule on a separate piece of paper)
May 16, 1950, "Dear Folks"
May 17, 1950, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm
May 23, 1950, "Dear Folks" sent from #317 Old Dorm
The Phi Post mentioned in May 23, 1950 Letter from Robert Peeling

Subseries 2: Football Letters

2-7 Football Letters

May 13, 1953 "Dear Robert Peeling" sent from Paul R Sieber (envelope included)
March 20, 1953 sent from Stanley Billheimer (envelope included)

Series 4: Campus Activities and Involvement

2-8 *The Independent Women's Organization*-Gettysburg College Choir Reunion Bumper Sticker

Typed information from *The Independent Women's Organization*
Gettysburg College Football Pamphlet
Gettysburg College Choir 50th Anniversary Program (originally located in 50th Anniversary Record)
Gettysburg College Choir Reunion Bumper Sticker

Box 2 Envelope Kappa Delta Rho Pledge Paddle-Rabbit Foot for Football Games

Kappa Delta Rho Pledge Dance Party Favor Paddle from November 11, 1950
Kappa Delta Rho Party Favor Mini Powder Puff
Rabbit Foot for Football Games

Box 2 Kappa Delta Rho Bracelet

Kappa Delta Rho Party Favor Bracelet (2)

Box 2 Postcard Box (contents listed in **Series 2**)

Box 2 Sleeve College Choir Tour Poster

College Choir Tour Poster from Gaffney, SC
College Choir Poster from 1952

Box 2 Record Sleeves

Gettysburg College Choir Recording from 1976
The Gettysburg College Choir: 50th Anniversary Concert" Recording from 1985

Series 5: Family Involvement and Photographs

2-9 Albert Peeling Commencement Invitation Booklet 1925-Regulations Governing Change to Activities Fee

Commencement invitation booklet 1925 for Albert S. Peeling
College bill for tuition and fees Fall 1925 for Horace Peeling
Name Sign
Photographs
Regulations Governing Change to Activities Fee—1950

Removed from Collection

Gettysburg Bunny and dink
Location: Added to Artifact Collection

G Book 1950
Location: Added to College publication collection

The Alumni Bulletin Vol. XLIII, No. 1 February 1953
The Alumni Bulletin Vol. XLV, No. 5 June-July 1955
Location: Added to College publication collections

Gettysburg/ Lehigh Sports Program, October 14, 1950
Location: Added to subject vertical files

Application for Admissions to Gettysburg College, May 1949
Location: Added to subject vertical files

A History of Pennsylvania Hall by Charles H. Glatfelter, 1970
Location: Removed from Collection

“Engineering at Gettysburg College” by William C. Darrah, December 1974
Location: Added to College Publications

“Gettysburg College and the Lutheran Connection” by Harold A Dunkelberger,
December 1975
Location: Added to College Publications

“War and the Constitution: Abraham Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt” Arthur
Schlesinger, Jr. Fortenbaugh Memorial Lecture, 1988
Location: Added to College Publications

For more information about the Elizabeth Peeling Lyon Collection

Interview with Albert S. Peeling ('25), conducted by Michael Birkner and David Hedrick
for the Oral History Collection on June 3, 1995.
Location: Reading Room