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Roberts, Neva Allen (1912-2002), Collection, 1885-2002

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#81 Roberts, Neva Allen (1912-2002), Collection, 1885-2002
5 l.f.

INTRODUCTION

A collection of autobiographical work, correspondence, family history, educational and career records, legal and financial documents, photos, artifacts, organization papers, scrapbooks, news clippings, and other materials pertaining to Neva Allen Roberts, her family and her friends.

DONOR INFORMATION

Gift of Neva Allen Roberts Estate, March 2004.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Neva Lorena Allen was born September 24, 1912, in Anderson County, Kansas to George Burr and Sarah Mabel Lingo Allen. Neva realized her love and passion for teaching when she attended various one-room schools in Anderson County. She graduated from Garnett High School in 1931. There was a surplus of teachers at that time and no teaching positions available in the area. She enrolled and completed several extension courses at Kansas State Teachers College in Pittsburg (now Pittsburg State University) during the summer months. She began her first teaching position in 1935, earning \$40 per month that year. She continued taking summer courses at Pittsburg from 1936 to 1945. She received a lifetime teaching certificate in 1940 and her Bachelor of Science in Education degree in 1945. She later earned a Master of Science degree majoring in education in 1956. She married Lester Earl Roberts June 5, 1966.

Neva taught mostly in one-room schools in Southeast Kansas and later at Longfellow Elementary School in Garnett where she retired in 1980. Following her retirement, she owned and operated a pre-school for the next 10 years, completing her teaching career of 55 years. She was a member of several professional organizations, including being a charter member of the American Association of University Women. In her spare time, she enjoyed writing poetry and painting landscapes. Neva Allen Roberts died February 11, 2002.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Neva Allen Roberts Collection is arranged into twelve series: **Autobiography, Correspondence, Family History, Education, Career, Legal Documents, Financial Records, Photos, Artifacts, Organizations, Scrapbook, and Miscellaneous**. The autobiographical, correspondence, family history, and photograph series provide the most insight into Roberts' life.

The **Autobiography Series** contains a four page autobiographical sketch, plus one page of verse and three pages of verse set to music.

The **Correspondence Series** contains six folders containing correspondence dating from 1897-1990. Most of the early letters, in addition to some others throughout, are addressed to Mabel Lingo or Mrs. Mabel Allen.

The **Family History Series** contains genealogical information, notes, news clippings, funeral service programs and memorial books, the Allen family baby diary, family bibles, family first reader and dictionary.

The **Education Series** is divided into two subseries. The first subseries, Elementary & Secondary Education, contains certificates, a grade card, eighth grade and high school diplomas, high school graduation program and fifty-year reunion certificate. The second subseries, Kansas State Teachers College, contains coursework dated 1933-1939; a 1940 transcript; two

textbooks/lab manuals; bachelor's diploma, master's thesis, master's diploma and graduation program; KSTC miscellaneous items, and alumni directories dated 1913-1947 and 1991.

The **Career Series** contains teacher's contracts from 1950-1975, teacher's certificates, classroom name placard, news clippings, USD 365 employee directory 1972-76, 1953 play program, and workshop certificates.

The **Legal Documents Series** contains George Allen 1937 vehicle registration, information pertaining to and copies of Mabel Allen's delayed birth certificate, Neva Allen Roberts's birth certificate, social security card, 1962 driver's license, George and Mabel Allen marriage license, Neva Allen Roberts's wills, and life insurance beneficiaries statement.

The **Financial Documents Series** contains receipts, property tax statements, bank receipts, loan information, investment ledger, and retirement account information.

The **Photograph Series** is arranged in eight subseries. The first subseries is an album containing photos mostly of family. The second subseries pertains to Roberts' life during her primary school years until high school graduation. The third subseries comprises of images of Roberts, family, friends and colleagues. The fourth subseries shows her farm life from 1926-1942. The fifth subseries relates to Roberts' university life. The sixth subseries relates to Roberts' career as a schoolteacher from 1933-1980. The seventh subseries pertains to Roberts' later, post-retirement years. The eighth subseries includes miscellaneous images. All images have been arranged with the idea of keeping images in chronological order while also keeping similar subjects together within the subseries, which sometimes contradicts the chronologic order. As many of the photos were acquired in a mixed order, dates are usually approximate, though in some cases the photos have the date stamped on the back.

The **Artifacts Series** contains a quilt top and a woven blanket with information pertaining to their creators, a pair of red leather toddler shoes, locks of baby hair, baby teeth, strips of fabric, dried flowers and seed pods, a relative's handkerchief, false flowers and silk hair bows worn by Mabel in photograph from her young adulthood, set of sewing hoops, ring worn by Vila Allen, and other family keepsakes.

The **Organizations Series** contains papers pertaining to the various organizations in which Roberts was involved. There are programs from the United Methodist Church, Delta Kappa Gamma yearbooks, letters and financial information from the Greeley and Ottawa Coops, papers from the American Association of University Women and Kansas National Education Association, and many documents from the Business and Professional Women's Club including yearbooks, convention programs, and news clippings.

The **Scrapbook Series** contains two scrapbooks. The first scrapbook was put together by Roberts' mother and contains mainly pieces related to Roberts' education and career. The second scrapbook contains mostly pieces related to Roberts' career.

The **Miscellaneous Series** news clippings; various functions' programs; an address book; trip log book; poems; Anderson county historical information; and information on Edgar Lee Masters.

FOLDER LIST

Autobiography series

- f. 1 Autobiography "Teacher of Kansas"

Correspondence series

- f. 2 1889-1908
- f. 3 1911-1940
- f. 4 1945-1990
- f. 5 Cards, 1910-1943
- f. 6 Cards, 1943-1982
- f. 7 Cards, Undated

Family History series

- f. 8 Genealogical
- f. 9A Genealogical
- f. 9B George and Mabel Allen's Baby Diary
- f. 10 News clippings and other information concerning relatives
- f. 11 Daughters of the American Revolution application; Family lineage
- f. 12 Public sale flyers
- f. 13 Family bible published 1886
- f. 14 Bible published 1900
- f. 15 Lester Lingo's First Reader published 1895
- f. 16 Nellie Lingo's dictionary published 1898
- f. 17 Mabel Lingo's autograph album 1903-1910
- f. 18 George Allen memorial album, obituary, memorial service program
- f. 19 Mabel Lingo Allen memorial album, obituary, memorial service program
- f. 20 Lester Roberts' memorial album, obituary, memorial service program

Education series

Elementary and Secondary subseries

- f. 21 1922-23 report card, certificates of perfect attendance 1925-27, 1927 8th grade commencement program, 1931 commencement and baccalaureate programs
- f. 22 1981 50 year reunion certificate class of 1931

Kansas State Teacher's College subseries

- f. 23 1933 Primary Grade Geography assignments
- f. 24 1933 Primary Grade Geography assignments

Kansas State Teacher's College subseries continued

- f. 25 1933 Primary Grade Geography assignments
- f. 26 1933 Introduction to Education assignments, note cards
- f. 27 1934 Rhetoric I assignments
- f. 28 1934 Rhetoric I assignments
- f. 29 1934 Rhetoric I assignments
- f. 30 1938 Rhetoric II assignments
- f. 31 1938 Rhetoric II assignments
- f. 32 1939 Personal and Community Hygiene assignments
- f. 33 1939 Personal and Community Hygiene assignments
- f. 34 American Literature assignments, syllabus
- f. 35 1940 Transcript
- f. 36 Extension Department envelopes
- f. 37 A Guide for Teaching Arithmetic... and Physics: Laboratory Experiments...
- f. 38 1945 BSED diploma
- f. 39 1955 Master's thesis
- f. 40 1956 Master's diploma, graduation program, baccalaureate dinner program
- f. 41 Miscellaneous items
- f. 42 1913-1947 Alumni Directory
- f. 43 1991 Alumni Directory

Career series

- f. 44 1950-1975 Teacher's contracts
- f. 45 News clippings, teacher certificates and other certificates, 1972-1976 USD 365 directory, name placard

Legal Documents series

- f. 46 1937 motor vehicle registration, certificate of delayed birth, driver's license, social security card, etc.
- f. 47 Last will and testament, life insurance beneficiaries

Financial Documents series

- f. 48 Property tax statements, estate of J.A. Lingo documents
- f. 49 Property tax documents, loan and bank documents
- f. 50 1934-1942 property tax statements, receipts
- f. 51 1951-1960 property tax statements, receipts, investment and retirement account documents
- f. 52 Receipts, voucher book, list

Photograph series

Album subseries

f. 53 Family photograph album, pre-1915-mid-late 1920s

Early Life subseries

f. 54 1918-1919?

f. 55 1919-1927

f. 56 1927-1930

f. 57 1930-1931

Family and Friends subseries

f. 58 Early 1900s

f. 59 19teens

f. 60 19teens to 1920s

f. 61 1920s-1930s

f. 62 1937-1940s

f. 63 1938-1940s

f. 64 1942

f. 65 1940s

f. 66 1940s

f. 67 1940s-1950

f. 68 1940s

f. 69 1940s

f. 70 1940s-1950s

f. 71 1940s-1950s

f. 72 1937-1938

f. 73 1938

f. 74 1939

f. 75 Colleagues 1940s

f. 76 Colleagues 1940s

Farm Life subseries

f. 77 1920s

f. 78 1920s-1942

f. 79 1940s

f. 80 1940s

University subseries

- f. 81 1930s-1945
- f. 82 1945-1956

Career subseries

- f. 83 1930s
- f. 84 1930s-1940s
- f. 85 Early 1940s
- f. 86 Early 1940s
- f. 87 Early 1940s
- f. 88 1940s
- f. 89 1940s-1950s
- f. 90 1940s-1950s
- f. 91 1950s-1968

Late Life subseries

- f. 92 1970s-1990s

Miscellaneous subseries

- f. 93 1940s-1950s
- f. 94 1958-1980s or 1990s

Artifacts series

- f. 95 Neva's baby teeth in envelope
- f. 96 Lock of Mabel Lingo Allen's baby hair
- f. 97 Lock of Julia Lingo's baby hair from 08-06-1918
- f. 98 Lock of Willie Wycoff's baby hair
- f. 99 Small box with lock of hair
- f. 100 Small box with 3 bar pins
- f. 101 Envelope with Mable Lingo written on it
- f. 102 Small box containing strings of beads, ribbon, and a ring worn by infant Vila Allen
- f. 103 Envelope containing the remnants of a cigar- presumably George Allen's wedding cigar
- f. 104 Flower seeds and pods
- f. 105 Dried flower, red silk bow, reflective oval
- f. 106 Dried flower, dried cedar leaves, card stock cutouts
- f. 107 Silk flowers worn by Mabel Lingo in photograph February 1906 found in f.58 en.2
- f. 108 White silk hair bows worn by Mabel Lingo in photograph February 1906 found
in f. 58 envelope 2
- f. 109 Black knitted baby mittens

Artifacts series continued

- f. 110 Gray collar with black trim
- f. 111 Black cloth banner or strip of a garment
- f. 112 Strip of white silk
- f. 113 Strips of blue silk from Mabel Lingo Allen's wedding dress
- f. 114 Arch Lingo's red embroidered handkerchief
- f. 115 Pair of buckled red leather baby/toddler shoes
- f. 116 Woven blanket with history
- f. 117 Quilt top with history
- f. 118 Memorial book of Sarah Shaw- 1913
- f. 119 Picture of Sarah Mearkle Akers
- f. 120 Set of sewing hoops
- f. 121 Small, book-shaped box with needlebook
- f. 122 Stones Bros receipt for ring- 12/16/1897
- f. 123 Indented name plate "Neva Allen"
- f. 124 Pen tip
- f. 125 Blue plastic jewel

Organizations series

- f. 126 Delta Kappa Gamma: yearbooks 1949-1950, 1950-1951, and 1964-1965; song sheet; 1946 membership dues letter; news clipping; bulletins 1972 and 1985; membership cards 1944 and 1949-1950; bookmark; "Know Your Greek Well" card
- f. 127 First United Methodist Church-Garnett: membership certificate 05/20/1945; baptism certificate 11/12/1948; *The Methodist Publishing House* notebook; Sunday service programs 1949-1985; Bible lesson picture cards; print image of church building; Gospel Missionary Union pamphlet; 1964-65 Directory; United Methodist Women 1984 and yearbook; "Begin Anew in '62" postcard; photocopied pictures of church; undated *Roll Call of Church Membership*
- f. 128 1950 Greeley Coop account letter; 1951 Greeley Coop annual report and newsletter; 1952 Greeley Coop letter; 1963 Ottawa Coop stock certificate and by-law booklet
- f. 129 1962-63 Wesleyan Service Guild program; 1983 Annual meeting of the senior citizens association program; American Association of University Women 1971-72 and 1976-77 program; news clippings; Kansas National Education Association membership card, certificate, letter
- f. 130 Business and Professional Women's Club (BPW) miscellaneous
- f. 131 BPW news clippings and miscellaneous
- f. 132 BPW 1971-72 and 1973-74 program; poem; news clippings
- f. 133 BPW 1986-87 scrapbook

Scrapbook series

- f. 134 Scrapbook compiled by Mabel Allen for Neva dated Dec. 1944. Contains memorabilia from Cherryvale and Chanute schools, and from college graduation (Bachelor's degree)
- f. 135 Loose items from scrapbook from folder 134
- f. 136 Loose items from scrapbook from folder 134
- f. 137 Scrapbook: contains memorabilia from Garnett High School Alumni Banquet, 1939; lyric pamphlets; Kansas State Teacher's College; etc.
- f. 138 Loose items from scrapbook from folder 137
- f. 139 Loose items from scrapbook from folder 137

Miscellaneous

- f. 140 Address book; Goodwill Tours pamphlet; notes; Nova Scotia 1988 trip roster
- f. 141 Trip book filled with notes, addresses, expenditures; loose trip notes
- f. 142 News clippings whose subjects are directly connected to Neva's life; certificates; article on Neva's farm life ; History of picture frame written by Mabel Lingo Allen; crochet contest information; hand-drawn map by George Allen of his farm; list of things stolen from Allen farm on 09/11/1906; handwritten notes; name cards; Bour's Fortune-Telling Teddy Bear directions; Mabel Lingo pledge card
- f. 143 Napkins; Game of AGE cards; Lester Lingo craft from Jan. 1916; notes; envelopes; cure for hydrophobia; drawing of bird; Wells Fargo and Co. money order receipt 10/03/10 (or 18); song sheets; Bartlesville tourism brochure; "The Woolaroc Story"; photocopied picture of "Old Jerkey" train engine; quilting critique sheets
- f. 144 News clipping about the Allen home in Chanute; Home Sweet Home Christmas tour flyer; Souvenir impression of Great Seal of Kansas; play program; Garnett senior citizens center grand opening ceremony program; 1982 Olathe South High School commencement program; photocopied pages from a book over Native Americans; Garnett Review bicentennial edition
- f. 145 News clippings: riddles, relative's house, wedding announcements, humorous stories, Christmas information
- f. 146 News clippings: quilt pattern, riddles, recipes, stories of interest and concerning relatives, remedies and self-help
- f. 147 News clippings; part of Anna Sewell biographical sketch printed in Farm Bureau newsletter; Velma Sykes obituary with poem
- f. 148 Poems
- f. 149 Edgar Lee Masters information including news clippings and notes
- f. 150 Anderson County Historical society information and brochure; news clippings over history of Anderson County and Garnett
- f. 151 News clippings concerning history of Anderson County and Garnett; Anderson County Historical Society 1983 annual banquet program; Lake Region County Historical Association spring 1979 newsletter; "Brief History of Glenloch" compiled by Frank Bennett for 1958 homecoming
- f. 152 Polk Township Historical Book- June 1976