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#82 Smith, Lena Martin (1887-1961), Collection, 1902-1951
8 folders

INTRODUCTION

The Lena Martin Smith Collection includes photographs, letters, and miscellaneous programs from events at Pittsburg State University.

DONOR INFORMATION

This collection was donated to Special Collections in the Leonard H. Axe library at Pittsburg State University by Zeke R. Smith. Part of the collection was donated in February of 1971, but the majority of the collection arrived January 22, 2010.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Lena Gertrude Martin was born on December 6, 1887. She had four siblings, but only three survived childhood. She taught music every summer after she was fourteen until she went to college in 1909. Martin graduated from State Manual Training Normal School, now Pittsburg State University, in 1913 and was a member of the first class to graduate from SMTN with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She married Ralph Smith that day after graduating from college and began working at the university library shortly after. She wrote the current Alma Mater song for Pittsburg State University, then called "Gold and Crimson." She also wrote the lyrics to Walter McCray's "SMTN March." Martin was the principal at Fulton High School, Kansas and also in Meade, Kansas. She was the editor of *The Alumnian*, a magazine at Pittsburg State University, then known as Kansas State Teacher's College, from 1935 until 1951, when she moved to Kansas City. She also won a contest, giving the university newspaper the name *The Collegio*, which is still used today. In 1930, Martin was given an honorary place in the Alpha Zeta Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, and honorary fraternity for Education. In 1931, she was also given an honorary place in the Alpha Kappa Chapter of the Sigma Alpha Iota fraternity, an honorary women's fraternity for music. Lena Martin Smith died on January 8, 1961 while living with her son in Indiana.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Lena Martin Smith Collection includes eight folders. Within these folders are letters; programs for graduations and anniversary celebrations for Pittsburg State University; volumes from *The Alumnian*; a scrapbook; the original music from the Alma Mater, or "Gold and Crimson;" photos of Russ Hall, Whitesitt Hall, and campus organizations; the story of Martin's mother and father; and miscellaneous items.

There are three letters in the letters folder. The first letter is from Martin, et.al., dated April 28, 1911, petitioning SMTN to reinstate Mr. Bowen in his faculty position. The second letter is from Hon. E. O. Ellis, dated April 29, 1911, asking Professor D. F. Bowen to not involve the students in the situation until Ellis completed his investigation of the circumstances surrounding Bowen's release from the university. The third letter, dated April 29, 1911, is not signed but addressed to Professor Hill stating that the termination of Bowen would be investigated to make sure politics were not involved.

There are miscellaneous photos of Russ Hall before, during, and after the fire in June 1914, and pictures of staff members at the SMTN in the photograph folder.

The original copy of “Gold and Crimson,” some “College Songs,” the SMTN March by Walter McCray, with lyrics by Lena M. Smith, and the Alma Mater Song draft of an article later written is included in the music folder.

The programs folder is comprised of miscellaneous programs, such as graduation programs from 1910, 1913, and 1954, and Apple Day programs from 1910, 1916, 1949, and 1951.

Miscellaneous programs for a graduate dinner; an anniversary celebration for Kansas State Teacher’s College, now known as Pittsburg State University; an anniversary newsletter; a Spring Festival program; and a program for a music concert for McCray’s Band are included in the programs folder.

The miscellaneous items folder includes the *Kansas Teacher and Western School Journal*, a card from a few teacher colleagues, and a Farlington School Commencement program dated May 16, 1902.

The next folder contains a scrapbook of pages, covers, and editions of the *Alumnian*, dating from 1935 to 1945.

The last folder contains the story of Mrs. Oello Ingraham Martin and Richard Martin, Lena Martin Smith’s parents. The story was narrated by Mrs. Ingraham Martin and published in the Girard Press, Kansas, beginning February 1, 1951 and ending January 25, 1952.

FOLDER LIST

- f. 1 Correspondence between Martin, E. O. Ellis, and D. F. Bowen (1911)
- f. 2 Photographs of State Manual Training Normal School (Pittsburg State), George Wilson Trout, Belle Provorse, Odella Nation, and Lena M. Smith
- f. 3 Music scores to “Gold and Crimson,” “College Songs,” and the SMTN March by McCray and Martin
- f. 4 Commencement and Apple Day programs
- f. 5 Miscellaneous Programs
- f. 6 Miscellaneous Items
- f. 7 Scrapbook
- f. 8 Story of Mrs. Oello Ingraham Martin and Richard Martin

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