Lyrl Clark Van Hyning Papers

Creator: Van Hyning, Lyrl Clark (1892-1973)
Extent: 10 l. ft.
Location:
Processor: Ashley Eckhardt, September 30, 2009

Administration Information
Access Restrictions: Some materials are restricted until 2034.
Usage Restrictions: Copyright for materials created by Lyrl Clark Van Hyning in this collection has been transferred to the Women and Leadership Archives.
Preferred Citation: Loyola University Chicago. Women & Leadership Archives. Lyrl Clark Van Hyning Papers. Box #, Folder #.
Separations: Approximately 2 linear feet of photographs, newspaper clippings, three-dimensional artifacts, and other documents were not included in the final collection and were returned to the donor.
See Also: American Medical Association Archives (correspondence regarding the Women’s Voice anti-polio vaccine campaign); American Jewish Committee Archives; Gallia County Genealogical Society

Biographical History
Mary Lyrl Clark was born on July 23, 1892, to William Howard Clark and Rhoda Ann Walter Clark in Gallia County, Ohio. Lyrl also had three sisters, Frances (Frankie), Faye, and Genevieve (Bunnie). William died when Lyrl was just six years old, leaving Rhoda to raise the children and work the family farm on her own. Rhoda became a house mother at Rio Grande College in Gallipolis, Ohio, not far from the Clark family farm, so that her daughters could attend college. Lyrl graduated from Rio Grande in 1913 as the only woman in her class and the first graduate from the Department of Oratory. While in college, she participated in the Ciceronean Literary Society, the College Ladies’ Glee Club, and college theatrical productions as well as serving on the editorial staff for the yearbook. After graduation, Lyrl worked as a teacher in both public schools and Rio Grande College before marrying George Herman Van Hyning on June 17, 1915.

Lyrl and George had three children together: Parrie Ann, Thomas Clark (Tom), and Jorgina (Gina). The family lived in South America for awhile as a result of George’s job with the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. When the Van Hyning returned to the United States, they first lived in Galesburg, Illinois, and later settled in Chicago. With the threat of World War II looming, Lyrl began her most ardent anti-war campaigning in Chicago. In February 1941, Lyrl, Lucy Palermo,
and Grace Keefe founded We, the Mothers, Mobilize for America, Inc., officially incorporated as an educational, tax-exempt organization. We the Mothers sought to educate the American public and politicians about the threat to American democracy and the safety of their sons through the country’s participation in the war. They protested President Roosevelt, the New Deal, lend-lease, and the war in general. The organization’s newsletter, *Women’s Voice*, spread their anti-war, anti-Communist, and anti-Semitic rhetoric to adherents throughout the country. Lyrl served as editor for this publication, which ran for almost twenty years.

Lyrl’s own son Tom served during World War II as pilot for the Army Air Corps. As a result of his family’s residence in Venezuela and his subsequent fluency in Spanish, Tom was sent to South America after completing his pilot training. He helped develop an Air Corps program in Paraguay and attained the rank of captain by the end of the war. Tom returned to South America after he was discharged from the military, living in Venezuela with his wife Shirley, whom he married in 1952, and his daughter Parrie Theresa. Tom died on May 3, 1955, when his plane crashed on a friend’s farm near Ciudad Bolivar, Venezuela.

Lyrl continued to promote her political ideology throughout her entire life, primarily through the publication of *Women’s Voice*, but she also gave speeches and wrote articles in other publications. In 1952, Lyrl was indicted and went to trial for libel as a result of her anti-Semitic rhetoric in *Women’s Voice*. She was acquitted of the charges on November 10, 1952. In addition to her political activities, Lyrl was also a prominent member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, serving as regent of the Aurora chapter from 1936 until 1938. Lyrl was also very ardent about her religious beliefs. Although raised a Methodist, she became a Christian Scientist and attended the “I AM” Temple. Her religious beliefs impacted all aspects of her life and even influenced some of the articles in *Women’s Voice*.

After George died on March 31, 1960, Lyrl moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to be near Parrie Ann and Gina and their families. Later, Shirley and Parrie Theresa joined the rest of the Van Hynings in New Mexico. Lyrl remained in New Mexico until her death as a result of breast cancer on June 9, 1973.

**Scope and Content**
The Lyrl Clark Van Hyning Papers contain materials related to Lyrl’s activities as a political activist through organizations like We, the Mothers, Mobilize for America, Inc. and her publication of *Women’s Voice*. This collection also includes many items regarding Lyrl’s family, providing a vivid picture of family life in the Van Hyning household. Materials include correspondence, newspaper articles, speeches, handwritten notes, journals, books, photographs, and three-dimensional objects. Some items, particularly certain correspondence and official documents, are in Spanish due to the Van Hynings’ numerous activities and residences in South America. The records are arranged alphabetically within each series.

This series contains records relating to Lyrl’s family, particularly her children, grandchildren, and sisters. The bulk of the material in this series consists of correspondence, primarily among the family members, between 1927 and Lyrl’s death in 1973. Much of this correspondence occurred
during World War II when Tom was serving as an Army Air Corps pilot and later moved to Venezuela. Other items in this series include Tom’s military and personal records, the family’s travel records to South America from 1929 to 1930, and various newspaper articles and other documents related to other members of Lyrl’s family.

Materials in this series relate to Lyrl’s professional activities, including her participation in the Daughters of the American Revolution and We, the Mothers, Mobilize for America, Inc., as well as her editorship of the newsletter Women’s Voice. Documents and newspaper articles regarding Lyrl’s political and religious views are also included in this series as well as items related to her trial for libel in 1952. Materials in this series include articles, correspondence, newsletters, brochures, speeches, and handwritten notes.

This series contains photographs of Lyrl’s family, including her husband, children, and grandchildren. Also included are photographs of the farm Lyrl grew up on in Ohio and photographs from her childhood that include her parents and sisters. A scrapbook compiled by Lyrl when she was a young adult and Tom’s baby book are also part of this series.

Lyrl’s handwritten journals comprise this series. The journals span from 1907 until her death in 1973. Also included are typewritten transcriptions of some of the journals between 1907 and 1955.

This series contains books from Lyrl’s library, covering topics from religion to politics to poetry. Most of the books discuss Christian Science and the “I AM” Activity, while many of the others reflect Lyrl’s political views.

Three-dimensional objects from Lyrl’s life comprise this series, including her sweater, pins, watch face, lace banquet cloth, engraved silverware, a painting of her home in New Mexico, and two framed photographs of the Clark farm in Ohio. Also included in this series are Tom’s flying scarf and a Chicago Adventurers’ Club banner given to him in 1954.

Series 7: Restricted Material, Box 19
These materials are restricted until 2034.

Subjects:
Antisemitism
Antisemitism--United States
Antisemitism--United States--Societies, etc.
Christian Science--Doctrines
Christian Scientists
Conservative women
I AM Religious Activity
Mothers’ movement
Van Hyning, Lyrl Clark
We, the Mothers, Mobilize for America, Inc.
Women and politics
*Women’s Voice*
World War II
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**Series 2: Professional Records, 1913-1973, n.d.**

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Ann Ida Gannon, BVM, Center for Women and Leadership
Loyola University Chicago

7 Libel Trial 1952
8 Political Views: Documents 1933-1972, n.d.
11 Rio Grande College Materials 1913-1917
12 South America 1929-1958, n.d.
13 Speeches and Notes 1920-1942, n.d.

6 1 We, the Mothers, Mobilize for America, Inc. 1941-1945, n.d.
3 Women’s Voice Correspondence 1947-1967

4 Clark Family 1906-1968, n.d.
6 Leila “Aleita” Albert Van Hyning 1935-1945
7 Lyrl and George Van Hyning 1913-1915, n.d.
9 Lyrl and George Van Hyning’s Homes n.d.

7 1 Parrie Ann Van Hyning Shortle 1918-1940, n.d.
2 Parrie Ann and Samuel Shortle Family 1948, n.d.
4 Shirley Barger Van Hyning Stahmann 1940-1957, n.d.
6 Tom and Shirley Van Hyning Family n.d.
7 Van Hyning Family 1898-1964, n.d.
9 Women’s Voice Staff n.d.

8 1 Lyrl’s Scrapbook n.d.
2 Lyrl’s Scrapbook: Loose Photos n.d.
4 Tom’s Baby Book 1919
5 Tom’s Baby Book: Loose Photos n.d.

9 1 Lyrl’s Journal: n.d. n.d.
3 Lyrl’s Journal: 1913-1915 1913-1915
4 Lyrl’s Journal: 1920 1920

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5 Lyrl’s Journal: 1934-1938  1934-1938
8 Lyrl’s Journal: 1937  1937
9 Lyrl’s Journal: 1938-1940  1938-1940
10 Lyrl’s Journal: 1939-1941  1939-1941

10 1 Transcriptions of Lyrl’s Journals  1907-1955
5 Lyrl’s Journal: 1955  1955
6 Lyrl’s Journal: 1960  1960
7 Lyrl’s Journal: 1963  1963


13 1 Christian Science and Organized Religion, Hugh A.  1930
    Studdert Kennedy
3 The Disappearance, Philip Wylie  1951
4 English Poems, ed. Walter C. Bronson  1907
5 Ex America, Garet Garrett  1951
6 A Fair Barbarian, Frances Hodgson Burnett  1881
7 Holy Bible  n.d.
8 “I AM” Ascended Master Forgiveness and Mercy  1950
    Decrees
9 “I AM” Decrees for America’s Freedom  1941

14 1 “I AM” Decrees for Violet Consuming Flame – Part I  1941
    “I AM” Decrees for Violet Consuming Flame – Part II  1947
3 “I AM” Decrees for Violet Consuming Flame – Part II  1947
4 “I AM” Decrees for Violet Consuming Flame – Part III  1952
5 The “I AM” Discourses, 3rd ed., Godfré Ray King  1945
6 “I AM” The Law Decrees – Part I  1951
7 “I AM” The Law Decrees – Part I  1951
8 “I AM” Violet Flames Series II  1965
9 The Iliad of Homer, trans. Alexander Pope 1919
10 I Say Sunrise, Talbot Mundy 1947
11 The Law of Liberty, L. Fry 1963
12 Law of Life: Book II, A. D. K. Luk 1960
13 Let the Hurricane Roar, Rose Wilder Lane 1933
14 Life and Teaching of Jesus and Mary, A. D. K. Luk 1966
15 The Life Everlasting, Marie Corelli 1911
16 The Master Christian, Marie Corelli 1900

15 1 The Mountain on the Desert: A Philosophical Journey, Conrad Richter 1966
2 New Horizons: Beyond the World, Frank Bowman 1969
3 The Odyssey of Homer, trans. Alexander Pope 1911
4 Old Ugly-Face, Talbot Mundy 1950
5 One Hundred and One Famous Poems, revised ed., Roy J. Cook 1958
6 Our Messenger’s “I AM” Speaks 1941
7 Pentecostal Hymns: Number Three, Henry Date 1902
8 The Prophet, Kahlil Gibran 1945
9 Quiet Talks with the Master, Eva Bell Werber 1936
10 The Revelation to John, Aylmer Firebrace, 1963
11 A Royal Diadem, Walter C. Lanyon 1921
12 Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, Mary Baker Eddy 1934
13 Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, Mary Baker Eddy 1934

16 1 Scriptural Healing Arranged from the Bible, Helen L. Young 1907
2 The Voice of the “I AM,” no. 3, May 1936 1936
3 The Voice of the “I AM,” no. 3, May 1936 1936
4 The Voice of the “I AM,” no. 6, August 1937 1937
5 The Voice of the “I AM,” no. 10, December 1937 1937
6 The Voice of the “I AM,” no. 6, August 1939 1939
7 The Voice of the “I AM,” no. 10, December 1941 1941
8 The Voice of the “I AM,” no. 3, March 1945 1945
9 The Voice of the “I AM,” no. 5, May 1945 1945
10 The Voice of the “I AM,” no. 8, August 1947 1947
11 The Voice of the “I AM,” no. 9, September 1947 1947
12 The Voice of the “I AM,” no. 1, January 1948 1948
13 The Voice of the “I AM,” no. 12, December 1948 1948
14 The Voice of the “I AM,” no. 8, August 1950 1950
15 The Voice of the “I AM,” no. 4, April 1951 1951
16 The Voice of the Silence, H. P. Blavatsky 1946
17 War—What For?, 10th ed., George R. Kirkpatrick 1914

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Series 7: Restricted Material

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