

Accession # 1992.4
Rim Country Museums
Marguerite Noble Library
700 S. Green Valley Pkwy
Payson, AZ 85541
(928) 474-3483

Title

The Lena Chilson Hampton Collection

Dates

circa 1920s-1940s

Extent

4 boxes : 27 linear inches (2.25 linear feet) textual and photographic materials

Creator

Mary Lena Chilson Hampton (né Chipman)

Biographical History

After graduating from Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Lena Chipman arrived in Globe, Arizona in 1918 to teach. Her father and two brothers had moved to Miami to work in the copper mines and she followed. She came to Payson shortly after, riding up with Polly and Harry Brown. Lena married a Payson man, Jesse Birchett Chilson. Their first meeting involved Jesse's car, a Marmon, and his generosity with its use. He would take the young folks of Payson for rides and raccoon hunting; Lena was one of those in the group. When Lena was asked why she went out with Jesse, she answered that he had a car and "I had a lots of time on my hands."

After their marriage on July 29, 1919, they moved into the home on Main Street that Jesse had built in 1915. It was the first home in Payson to be built with the wiring inside of the walls instead of on the surface of the walls. They also had a ranch house on Deer Creek, south of Rye. Jesse died of cancer in 1933. Lena remarried in 1947 to General G. Wade Hampton; they later divorced. Wade was murdered in Texas in 1958.

Lena was an active participant in the Payson community. She was the first and the twenty-fifth president of the Payson Womans Club, and wore the same dress to both installations. She was renowned for her generosity in lending money to her fellow townspeople and for the beautiful flower gardens she had at her home. In 1982 she was honored as a founding member at the "Payson Centennial," Payson's hundredth anniversary celebration. Later in life she traveled with escorted tours all over the world and kept extensive scrapbooks of her adventures.

Scope and Content

This collection is comprised of textual and photographic materials collected by Chilson during her lifetime. Materials include photographs, Christmas cards, post cards, certificates, diplomas, poems, Bank books, ration books, correspondence and other papers.

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Unpublished and published manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

Languages and Scripts of the Materials

All materials are in English.

Finding Aids

Collection index available.

Custodial History

Materials were in the custody of Valda Taylor following the death of Lena Chilson Hampton.

Immediate Source of Acquisition/Provenance

All materials were donated to the Northern Gila County Historical Society, Inc. by Valda Taylor on behalf of the Lena Chilson Hampton estate. The date of donation is not on file.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Related Archival Material

A transcript of an oral interview with Lena Chilson Hampton is housed in the Sharlot Hall Museum, collection SHM MS-22.

Additional materials relating to Lena Chilson Hampton and the Chipman and Chilson families are housed in the archives of the Rim Country Museum.

Publication Note

Information about Lena Chilson Hampton was used in:

Northern Gila County Historical Society. 1984. *Rim Country History*. Northern Gila County Historical Society.

Preferred Citation

Bibliographic citations must cite the title of the collection, the box number (or other location) and the Northern Gila County Historical Society, Inc. Please use the following example:

Doris Sturgis to Senator Barry Goldwater, Box 1, Folder 1, the Doris Sturges Harger Papers, Marguerite Noble Library, Northern Gila County Historical Society, Inc.

Processing Information

This collection originally included materials relating to the Payson Womans Club's acquisition of the three mining claims from the estate of Jay F. Vann in 1939, as executed by Lena Chilson Hampton and

Julia Randal. Staff members later concluded those materials were accessioned separately and had been filed together in error, so the materials were moved to a separate collection - see accession #1991.1.9, the Payson Womans Club Collection.

Description Control

Finding aid written by Nancy Purkey, February 2010.

Revised by Christine Solymossy using *DACS2*, February 2016.

Access Points (Access Terms)

Chilson, Jesse

Chilson Hampton, Mary Lena (néé Chipman)

Chipman (surname)

Chilson (surname)

Education--Documentation

Payson (Ariz.)

Payson Womans Club

Payson Region (Ariz.)--History