WALKER, DALLAS (1895-1970)
WORLD WAR I LETTERS, 1917-1918

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator:
Walker, Dallas, 1895-1970

Inclusive Dates:
1917-1918

Scope & Content:
The Dallas Walker World War I Letters, containing approximately 34 items, spans the period 1917-1918. The collection is composed entirely of personal correspondence. Most of the letters were written by Mary Walker, a student at Nashville’s Ward-Belmont School for Women, to her brother, Dallas Walker, while he was stationed in Allentown, Pennsylvania, in the United States Army Ambulance Service. A few of the letters were written by Mary’s classmates at Ward-Belmont; including Margaret Saunders, Sadie Edwards, and Gladys Edwards (Sadie’s sister).

The correspondence is centered around Mary’s student experience at Ward-Belmont School for Women. She relates to her brother feelings of homesickness, the woes of studying for exams, and other details of college life. There are several items of special interest contained in the correspondence. The first is a letter (located in folder 1), dated September 22, 1917, in which Mary asks her brother if he has “heard any more about going to France.” Another is a postcard (located in folder 5) depicting Pembroke Hall on the Ward-Belmont campus. Mary has written that she lives in Pembroke Hall and “it’s prettier than this.” A third item of interest is a letter (located in folder 5), dated April 20, 1918, in which Mary writes about seeing Charlie Chaplin. She relates that Chaplin is “just dandy (not one bit silly) and awfully good looking.” A letter (located in folder 5), also dated April 20, 1918, has images and text that have been cut out of printed materials and glued on the letter. In the letter, Mary discusses the war and expresses her wish to “be a soldier and shoot a few of those Germans.” The last page of the letter has a printed poem, titled “A New Song of Hate,” that expresses hate for “The Kaiser.”
Physical Description/Extent:
.25 linear feet

Accession/Record Group Number:
Ac. no. 2009-042

Language:
English

Permanent Location:
III-K-1

Repository:
Tennessee State Library and Archives, 403 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee, 37243-0312

Administrative/Biographical History

Dallas I. Walker
September 22, 1895 - born in San Dimas, California, son of Harry E. and Genevieve R. Walker
June 5, 1917 - registers for the draft
February 1918 - contracts mumps and eventually quarantined
1925 - marries Pansy T.
July 15, 1970 - dies in Los Angeles, California

Mary Genevieve Walker
October 20, 1898 - born in San Dimas, California, daughter of Harry E. and Genevieve R. Walker
1917 - starts attending Ward-Belmont School for Women
April 1918 - meets Charlie Chaplin
1921-1923 - attends the University of California at Berkeley as an undergraduate
August 25, 1924 - applies for U. S. Passport
September - October 1924 - tours Europe
June 15, 1968 - dies in Los Angeles, California

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

The arrangement of the collection is chronological.
Conditions of Access and Use

Restrictions on Access:
No restrictions.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:
No restrictions.

Index Terms

Personal Names:
  Chaplin, Charlie, 1889-1977
  Walker, Dallas, 1895-1970

Personal Names (As Authors):
  Edwards, Sadie
  Edwards, Gladys
  Saunders, Margaret
  Walker, Mary Genevieve, 1898-1968

Corporate Names/Organizations/Government Bodies:
  United States -- Army -- Ambulance Service
  Vanderbilt Commodores (Football team)
  Ward-Belmont College (Nashville, Tenn.)

Subjects:
  World War, 1914-1918

Geographic Names:
  Allentown (Pa.)
  Nashville (Tenn.)

Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition:
The Dallas Walker World War I Letters were purchased from Charles Apfelbaum of Watchung, New Jersey, on June 1, 2009.
Processing and Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:

Processing Information:
Processing was completed by Scott Lillard and Lori Lockhart, September 20, 2010.

Existence and Location of Copies:
Mf. no. 1975

Electronic Location and Access:
DETAILED COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

CONTAINER LIST

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<th>Folder</th>
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