

Lena Lewis Manuscripts, 1936: A Guide

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Lena Lewis

Title: Lena Lewis Manuscripts

Inclusive Dates: 1931-1936

Abstract: The collection consists of correspondence, assignments, notes, and manuscripts created by Lena Lewis as she worked on the Works Progress Administration (WPA) American Guide Book Project in 1936.

Identification: AR32

Extent: 0.76 cubic feet

Shelf location: 6:C:2

Language(s): Collection is in English.

Repository: Tarleton State University, Dick Smith Library, Archives and Special Collections, Stephenville, Texas

Biographical Note

Lena Rivers Lewis was born in Kentucky on October 10, 1881 to John Waller (1832-1895) and Mary Bibb Lewis (1835-1918). She was only three months old when her family moved to Leon County, Texas where her father bought 100 acres 15 miles southwest of Centerville.

Lewis was a professor of history at John Tarleton Agricultural College (now known as Tarleton State University) in Stephenville in the 1920s and 1930s. Dean J. Thomas Davis tasked her with working on the American Guide Book Project, an encyclopedia developed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), in 1936. In addition to teaching, Lewis was the dietitian as well as manager of the girl's dormitory. During her spare time, she directed the landscaping of John Tarleton campus.

Lewis died in Dallas, Texas on December 20, 1940 and was buried in the West End Cemetery in Stephenville, Texas. The 1941 issue of *The Grassburr*, the yearbook of John Tarleton Agricultural College, was dedicated to her memory. Lena Lewis Hall, a girls' dormitory on Tarleton campus, was named for her.

Sources:

Glenn, Justin Matthews, *The Washingtons: A Family History: Volume 4*. El Dorado Hills, CA: Savas Publishing, 2014.

<https://books.google.com/books?id=ELGoBAAAQBAJ&pg=PT36&dq=Lena+Rivers+Lewis&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjP0rG15evgAhVPXK0KHdopB2EQ6AEIKDAA#v=onepage&q=Lena%20Rivers%20Lewis&f=false>. Accessed March 5, 2019.

John Tarleton Agricultural College. *The Grassburr*, Yearbook of John Tarleton Agricultural College, yearbook, Stephenville, Texas.

1923: texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph541976/m1/30/?q=%22Lena%20Lewis%22

1928: texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph541966/m1/213/?q=%22Lena%20Lewis%22

1935: texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph541946/m1/21/?q=1935

1938: texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph541947/m1/15/?q=Lena%20Lewis

1939: texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph541949/m1/19/?q=Lena%20Lewis

All accessed March 5, 2019. University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu; crediting Tarleton State University.

The J-TAC (Stephenville, Tex.), Vol. 20, No. 27, Ed. 1 Tuesday, April 29, 1941, newspaper, April 29, 1941; (texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph140414/m1/1/?q=April%2029%2C%201941: accessed March 6, 2019), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu; crediting Tarleton State University.

Tarleton State College. *The Grassburr*, Yearbook of John Tarleton Agricultural College, yearbook, Stephenville, Texas.

1937: texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph541973/m1/28/?q=%22Lena%20Lewis%22

1940: texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph541986/m1/31/?q=Lena%20Lewis

1941a: texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph541984/m1/25/?q=%22Lena%20Lewis%22

1941b: texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph541984/m1/9/?q=%22Lena%20Lewis%22

All accessed March 5, 2019. University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu; crediting Tarleton State University.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of correspondence, assignments, notes, and manuscripts created by Lena Lewis as she worked on the Works Progress Administration (WPA) American Guide Book Project in 1936. The major portion of the correspondence is between Lewis and Ada Davis, the local supervisor in Waco, Texas. Davis sent assignments in outline form to Lewis. The notes and manuscripts are both handwritten and typed.

The items of special interest are found in Box 1: a history of Stephenville College, 1880-1914; a biography of John Tarleton; a list of preachers who served the settlements; a handwritten (as well as typed) chart of some early settlers; and a biography of J. Thomas Davis. The 1931 Texas House Bill No. 333 establishing policies for a system of state highways is found in Box 2.

Organization

The Lena Lewis Manuscripts were in no discernable original order when found in the repository. The materials remain in the order in which they were found.

Rights and Access

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Physical Access Restrictions

None.

Technical Access Restrictions

None.

Publication Rights

Copyright restrictions may apply.

Reproduction Note

Reproductions must be made from surrogates (microfilm, digital scan, photocopy of the original held by Archives/Special Collections, Dick Smith Library, Tarleton State University), when available. Only archives staff may photocopy collection documents.

Index Terms

Persons

Davis, Ada
Davis, J. Thomas

Organizations

Work Progress Administration
Texas Pacific Coal Company
John Tarleton Agricultural College

Subjects

Libraries.
Newspapers.
Railroads—transportation.
Railways—transportation.
Stagecoach lines.
Transportation.
Transportation—railroads.
Wildflowers.

Places

Alexander (Tex.)
Alexander (Tex.)—History.
Bluff Dale (Tex.)
Bluff Dale (Tex.)—History.
Dublin (Tex.)
Dublin (Tex.)—History.
Erath County (Tex.)
Erath County (Tex.)—History.
Stephenville (Tex.)
Stephenville (Tex.)—History.

Thurber (Tex.)
Thurber (Tex.)—History.

Administrative Information

Provenance

Provenance of the collection is unknown.

Preferred Citation

[Title of file or item], Lena Lewis Manuscripts, AR32, Box [no.], Folder [no.], Tarleton State University, Dick Smith Library, Archives and Special Collections, Stephenville, Texas.

Processing Information

Finding aid prepared by Phyllis Kinnison, Amanda Pape, and Alyce Crane, 2019.

Related Collections

Roberta Clay Collection, AR13, Tarleton State University, Dick Smith Library, Archives and Special Collections, Stephenville, Texas.

Note to the Researcher

The collection is processed, but advance notice is required with time allowed to retrieve the records from an offsite location before conducting research. There may be occasions when staffing or weather conditions delay or prevent retrieval of the records. For more information, contact Librarian/Archivist Phyllis Kinnison at pkinnison@tarleton.edu.

Container List

| <u>Stack Location</u> | <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder(s)</u> | <u>Series Title and Folder Contents (with dates)</u> |
|-----------------------|------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 6:C:2 | 1 | 1 | Miscellaneous Items; undated |
| | | 2 | Annual Calendar of Erath County; undated |
| | | 3 | County Officials; undated |
| | | 4 | Education: Secondary; undated |
| | | 5 | Higher Education; undated |
| | | 6 | Colleges/Academies; undated |
| | | 7 | Religious Life; undated |
| | | 8 | The Indian in Erath County; undated |
| | | 9 | J. Thomas Davis; undated |
| | | 10 | Bluff Dale; undated |

| | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | 11 | Early Settlers; undated |
| | | 12 | Flora of Erath County; undated |
| | | 13 | Erath County: Geology; undated |
| | | 14 | Soils; undated |
| | | 15 | Erath County: Health and Social Works; undated |
| | | 16 | Erath County: Parks; undated |
| | | 17 | Erath County: Libraries |
| | | 18 | Erath County: Geography; undated |
| 2 | 1 | | Growth and Development; undated |
| | | 2 | Government and Law Enforcement; undated |
| | | 3 | Transportation; undated |
| | | 4 | Erath County: Architecture; undated |
| | | 5 | The Beginning; undated |
| | | 6 | Erath County: Manufacturing and Industry; undated |
| | | 7 | Erath County: Ethnology; undated |
| | | 8 | Erath County: Farm Census; undated |
| | | 9 | Thurber was Formerly Scene of Great Mining and Crude Oil Industries; undated |
| | | 10 | Major George B. Erath's Adventurous Spirit Brought Him to Texas; undated |
| | | 11 | Dr. W.W. McNeill; undated |
| | | 12 | Works Progress Administration Correspondence; 1935, 1936, undated |
| | | 13 | John Tarleton Artifact; undated |
| | | 14 | Lawyers; undated |
| | | 15 | Newspaper Clippings; undated |
| | | 16 | General Correspondence; undated |
| | | 17 | Bibliography; undated |
| | | 18 | House Bill: Legislature of the State of Texas; 1931 |
| | | 19 | Erath County – three mile walking tour; undated |