

Lillie Ruth White Laird Collection of Mary L. Johnson Letters, 1884-1887: A Guide

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Lillie Ruth White Laird (1913-1987)

Title: Lillie Ruth White Laird Collection of Mary L. Johnson Letters, 1884-1887

Inclusive Dates: 1884-1941

Abstract: Transcriptions of letters from 1884 to 1887 written from Mary L. Johnson to her ex-husband John Tarleton as well as three original letters comprise the bulk of the collection. Other items include the transcription of a letter dated September 20, 1885 from H.C.A. Crawford to "Dear Friend" and correspondence between Laird and J. Thomas Davis about the donation of the material.

Identification: AR41

Extent: 4 folders

Shelf location: Archivist's Office

Language(s): Collection is entirely in English.

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

Biographical Note

Lillie Ruth White Laird was born on October 2, 1913 to Thomas Olon White (1892-1967) and Emma Ann Bradley (1890-1970) in Santo, Palo Pinto County, Texas. She married John Vester "J.V." Laird (1909-1976) on May 26, 1934. They had two sons.

J.V. Laird was a professor of horticulture at John Tarleton Agricultural College from 1941-1974. He also served as Head of the Agriculture Department during that time. In the mid-1960s Laird developed the Tarleton iris, which has three purple falls (the bottom petals) and three white standards (the top petals). Tarleton State University colors are purple and white. When he retired in 1974, Laird was designated as Professor Emeritus of Agriculture by the Texas A&M University System.

J.V. died in 1976 and Lillie died in 1987. They are buried in Tarleton Cemetery in Santo, Palo Pinto County, Texas.

Sources:

The J-TAC (Stephenville, Tex.), Vol. 35, No. 14, Ed. 1 Tuesday, January 18, 1955, newspaper, January 18, 1955; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph140560/m1/2/>; accessed March 26, 2019), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Tarleton State University.

The J-TAC (Stephenville, Tex.), Vol. 54, No. 2, Ed. 1 Wednesday, September 12, 1973, newspaper, September 12, 1973; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph141270/m1/3/?q=%22J.V.%20Laird%22>; accessed March 26, 2019), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Tarleton State University.

Tarleton State University. J-TAC, 1976, periodical, 1976; Stephenville, Texas.
(<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapht1040204/m1/5/?q=%22J.V.%20Laird%22>: accessed March 26, 2019), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Tarleton State University.

"Texas Birth Certificates, 1903-1935," database with images, *FamilySearch*
(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XL99-XLW> : 9 March 2018), Lillie Ruth White, 02 Oct 1913; citing Santo, Palo Pinto, Texas, United States, certificate 35434, Texas Department of Health, Austin; FHL microfilm 4,144,549. Accessed March 29, 2019.

"Texas Deaths, 1890-1976," database with images, *FamilySearch*
(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K38Y-XKK> : 13 March 2018), John Vester Laird, 09 Feb 1976; citing certificate number 28067, State Registrar Office, Austin; FHL microfilm 2,243,931. Accessed March 29, 2019.

Scope and Contents

Transcriptions of letters dated from 1884 to 1887 written from Mary L. Johnson to her ex-husband John Tarleton as well as three original letters comprise the bulk of the collection. Other items include the transcription of a letter dated September 20, 1885 from H.C.A. Crawford to "Dear Friend" and correspondence between Laird and J. Thomas Davis about the donation of the material. Laird transcribed the letters in 1941 and donated the transcriptions to the John Tarleton Agricultural College (now known as Tarleton State University). The Thomas Olon White family owned the original letters and later donated them to the library.

Organization

The Lillie Ruth White Laird Collection of Mary L. Johnson Letters, 1884-1887 is organized in 2 series:

Series I. Original letters

Permission must be granted by the archivist in order to view the original letters.

Series II. Transcriptions

Rights and Access

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Physical Access Restrictions

As a preservation measure, researchers must use the transcriptions rather than the original letters. Permission must be granted by the archivist in order to view the original letters.

Technical Access Restrictions

None.

Publication Rights

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

Reproduction Note

Reproductions must be made from surrogates (microfilm, digital scan, photocopy, transcription 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

Johnson, Mary Louisa Dunnica, 1829-
Tarleton, John, ca. 1808-1895

Organizations

John Tarleton Agricultural College

Subjects

American letters.
Correspondence.
Correspondence – Mary Louisa Dunnica Johnson.
Flood damage – Texas – Waco – History – 19th Century.
Floods.

Places

Waco (Tex.)

Administrative Information

Provenance

Donated to the Dick Smith Library at Tarleton State University by Lillie Ruth White Laird in 1941.

Preferred Citation

[Title of file or item], Lillie Ruth White Laird Collection of Mary L. Johnson Letters, AR41, Box no., Folder [no.], Tarleton State University, Dick Smith Library, Archives and Special Collections, Stephenville, Texas.

Processing Information

Finding aid prepared by Phyllis Kinnison, 2019.

Note to the Researcher

Permission must be granted by the archivist in order to view the original letters. 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>
Archivist's Office	SC 1	12	Transcriptions: Transcriptions, 1941
		13	Original letters: Letter from Mary L. Johnson to John Tarleton, 4 November 1884
		14	Original letters: Letter from Mary L. Johnson to John Tarleton, 30 May 18[8]5
		15	Original letters: Letter from Mary L. Johnson to John Tarleton, 8 May 18[8]6