

Alice Marion Knowles Collection (1870-1950)

Accession number 2018.43

Worcester Historical Museum

## **Alice Marion Knowles Collection (1870-1950)**

### **Accession number**

2018.43

### **Creators**

Mitchell, Marion

### **Related Materials**

### **Size**

3 boxes

### **Forms of Material**

Correspondence, Journals, Photographs, Publications, Yearbooks, Scrapbook

### **Language**

English

### **Processed by**

Susanna Sigler September-December 2019 with the assistance of Librarian Wendy Essery

### **Scope and Content**

Alice Marion Knowles Collection contains photographs, many of the Knowles family, letters and personal papers of Alice Marion Knowles, materials related to her schooling and wedding to James Masson, information about property belonging to the Knowles family, and a scrapbook from Alice Marion Knowles' time at Wellesley College.

### **Provenance**

This collection was donated to Worcester Historical Museum without limiting conditions by Marion Mitchell on May 24, 2018.

### **Arrangement**

This collection is arranged by format and topic. Items are arranged in folders in chronological order.

### **Biographical Note**

Alice Marion Knowles was born in 1886, the daughter of Alice J. Bigelow and Frank P. Knowles. Her father was director of the Worcester's famed Crompton & Knowles Loom Works. Knowles Loom, started by Frank Knowles' father, had in 1897 acquired controlling interest in the Crompton Loom Works, and the two companies consolidated. Alice, who went by her middle name, Marion, attended South High School in Worcester and Wellesley College in Wellesley. She was very involved in theater throughout her schooling. In 1911 she took a "Grand Tour" cruise with several family members and her good friend Edith Rockwell. Many of the letters home from the cruise in this collection are from Edith. In 1914, Marion married James Carruthers Masson, a surgeon who worked as an assistant to the Mayo Brothers. After Marion and James's wedding in Worcester, the couple moved to Rochester, Minnesota so James could work at the Mayo Clinic. Marion and James had four children, James, Helen, Stanley, and William.

## **Names**

Knowles, Alice Marion  
Knowles, Francis Poole  
Knowles, Alice J Bigelow  
Rockwell, Edith  
Eldred, Lillian Knowles  
Masson, James Carruthers  
Gage, Mabel Knowles

## **Subjects**

Worcester, Massachusetts  
Crompton & Knowles Loom Works  
Worcester Industry  
Industry  
Travel  
Wellesley College  
Genealogy  
High Lawn Farm  
Looms  
Ocean Liners

## **Series List and Descriptions**

Series I: Correspondence Dates: 1884-1927, undated

Extent: 8 folders

Description: Correspondence. Bulk of letters are from 1911 "Grand Tour" cruise that Alice Marion Knowles took with some of her family and her friend Edith Rockwell. Many of these letters are from Edith to family back home detailing journey, written on hotel and cruise stationery. Stops include cities in North Africa, the Middle East, and many countries in Western Europe. Also included is correspondence outside of 1911, between Marion, friends, and family.

Series II: Schooling Dates: 1905, 1908, undated

Extent: 1 folder

Description: Papers from South High School and Wellesley College. Includes concert and theater programs, invitation to Marion's high school graduation, and two copies of the South High School yearbook, one belonging to Edith Rockwell.

Series III: Wedding Dates: 1914

Extent: 1 folder

Description: Materials surrounding the wedding of Alice Marion Knowles and James Carruthers Masson. Contains scans of newspaper clippings of wedding announcements, a wedding invitation with cards for the ceremony, reception, and "at home" hours for the bride and groom in their new home in Minnesota. Also included is Marion's "Bride's Gift Book" where she recorded gifts and other information including names of the wedding party. Photographs of Marion on her wedding day are housed in Box 1, Folder 14.

Series IV: Knowles Family Papers Dates: Undated  
 Extent: 3 folders  
 Description: Includes materials related to Knowles Family Genealogy, Family Events, and Family Property. Genealogy folder includes genealogy of Knowles family from 1600s to family patriarch Francis B. Knowles, grandfather of Marion. Family Events folder includes invitations, will of Mabel Knowles Gage, aunt of Marion Knowles, and eulogy for Marion's father Frank P. Knowles. Family Property folder contains copies of articles about Knowles family property, including their family home, and multiple articles about Frank P. Knowles at High Lawn Farm.

Series V: Photographs Dates: 1882-1942, undated  
 Extent: 2 folders  
 Description: Candid and professional photographs. Many undated. Includes photographs of the Knowles family (ancestors and descendents), homes, pets, automobiles, fields, property.

Series VI: Alice Marion Knowles Personal Papers Dates: 1904-1911, undated  
 Extent: 5 folders  
 Description: Personal papers of Alice Marion Knowles. Includes diaries, travel journals and itineraries, travel ephemera such as business cards, and personal writings. Travel materials are from her Grand Tour cruise in 1911 and include matching journals of Marion Knowles and Edith Rockwell. Personal writings are two compositions on notebook paper concerning historical topics. One is composed of multiple short essays on topics such as Moses, Maimonides, Spain's history, and "The Jew & The World War" about Jewish populations in Europe and WWI. Second composition is titled "Brief History of the Jews." Compositions are undated but reference events up until the 1930s.

Series VII: "Stunt book" scrapbook Dates: 1906  
 Extent: 1 box (oversize)  
 Description: Large softcover lined notebook containing clippings & ephemera from Marion's college years, accompanied by captions and drawings in both pen and pencil. Includes performance programs, dance cards with pencils, correspondence, business cards, transit passes, pressed flowers, a paper fan, decorative utensils, photographs, a watercolor sketch, and brochures.

### Container List

Box 1	Folders 1-8	Series I: Correspondence
Box 1	Folder 9	Series II: Schooling
Box 1	Folder 10	Series III: Wedding
Box 1	Folders 11-13	Series IV: Knowles Family Papers
Box 1	Folders 14-15	Series V: Photographs
Box 2	Folders 16-20	Series VI: Alice Marion Knowles Personal Papers
Box 3	Oversize	Series VII: "Stunt book" scrapbook