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## MS-114: Elizabeth Peeling Lyon Collection

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## MS-114: Elizabeth Peeling Lyon Collection

### **Description**

This collection consists primarily of 75 letters Betty wrote to her family during her two years at Gettysburg College. They date from September 18, 1950 through May 19, 1952, excluding the summer holiday. The letters chronicle Betty's college activities, showing specifically her participation in band, choir, the Independent Women, Kappa Delta Rho (her brother's fraternity), and dorm life. This collection also contains one scrapbook sheet of four photographs taken on campus and Lyon's freshman name sign.

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### **Keywords**

Gettysburg College, Independent Women Organization, student life, Kappa Delta Rho

### **Disciplines**

Cultural History | Higher Education | History | Social History | United States History | Women's History

**Guide to the  
Elizabeth Peeling Lyon Collection**



**Gettysburg College, Musselman Library  
Special Collections & College Archives**

**Processed by Laura Heffner  
June 2010**

## **MS – 114: Papers of Elizabeth Peeling Lyon**

(1 box, .27 cubic feet)

Inclusive Dates: 1950-1952

*Processed by: Laura Heffner  
June 2010*

### **Provenance**

Gift of Elizabeth Peeling Lyon, May 2008.

### **Biography**

Elizabeth “Betty” Peeling Lyon hailed from Roselle, New Jersey and was the fifth member of her family to attend Gettysburg College. She followed in her uncles’ (James ’21 and Horace ’29), father’s (Albert ’25), and brother’s (Robert “Bob” ’53) footsteps and attended Gettysburg College for her freshman and sophomore years before transferring to Cornell University to pursue a degree in nursing. She became a member of the Independent Women Organization in 1950; the Independent Women had 74 members that year, the largest in the history of the organization. She was a member of the Gettysburg College Choir as an alternate in the 1950-51 season, and as an active member in the 1951-52 season, under the direction of Professor Parker B. “Wags” Wagnild. She participated in both season’s choir tours. She was also a member of the band in 1951-52, under the direction of Paul A. Harner.

### **Scope and Content Notes**

This collection consists primarily of 75 letters Betty wrote to her family during her two years at Gettysburg College. They date from September 18, 1950 through May 19, 1952, excluding the summer holiday. The letters chronicle Betty’s college activities, showing specifically her participation in band, choir, the Independent Women, Kappa Delta Rho (her brother’s fraternity), and dorm life. This collection also contains one scrapbook sheet of four photographs taken on campus and Lyon’s freshman name sign.

### **Series Description**

The collection is divided into two Series. **Series 1:** Letters Home, **Series 2:** Photographs, and Miscellaneous.

### **Box 1**

1-1 Finding Aid and Biographical Information

## Series 1 – Letters Home

- 1-2 September 18, 1950 – September 22, 1950  
September 18, 1950, “Dear Mother, Dad, and Mary Ellen,” mailed from 38 Stevens Hall (Includes Class Schedule)  
September 19, 1950, “Dear Family”  
September 22, 1950, “Dear Mother, Dad, and Mel” (Includes Women’s Customs list, and program for 119<sup>th</sup> Opening Exercises of Gettysburg College)
- 1-3 September 25, 1950 – September 30, 1950  
September 25, 1950, “Dear Mother, Dad, & Mel” (Includes envelope)  
September 28, 1950, “Dear Family”  
September 30, 1950
- 1-4 October 6, 1950 – October 7, 1950  
October 6, 1950, “Dear Family” (Includes poem about Quiet Hours)  
October 7, 1950, “Dear Family” (Includes poem about Quiet Hours)
- 1-5 October 19, 1950 – November 26, 1950  
October 19, 1950, “Dear Family”  
October 23, 1950, “Dear Mother, Dad, and Melon”  
October 30, 1950, “Dear Mother, Dad, and Mary Ellen”  
November 12, 1950, “Dear Family”  
Undated letter, “Dear Mother, Dad, Mel, and Grandpa”  
November 26, 1950, “Dear Family”
- 1-6 November 28, 1950 – December 7, 1950  
November 28, 1950, “Dear Dad, Mother, Grandpa, and Mel”  
Undated letter, “Dear Family”  
Undated letter, “Dear Family”  
December 7, 1950, “Dear Mom, Dad, Mel, and Grandpa” (Includes birthday card signed by roommates)
- 1-7 December 10, 1950 – January 8, 1951  
December 10, 1950, “Dear Family,” (Includes program for Gettysburg College’s Commemoration of Christmas bulletin, also dated December 10, 1950)  
January 3, 1951, “Dear Mother, Dad, Grandpa, and Mel”  
January 8, 1951, “Dear Family”
- 1-8 January 13, 1951 – January 31, 1951  
January 13, 1951, “Dear Family”  
January 17, 1951, “Dear Family,” (Includes a birthday poem to “our dear roommate,” 1951 Itinerary [sic] for Gettysburg College Choir, and a copied letter from the Leopold Schepp Foundation concerning scholarship information.)  
January 20, 1951, “Dear Family”  
January 31, 1951, “Dear Mother, Dad, Mel, and Grandpa”
- 1-9 February 6, 1951 – February 17, 1951  
February 6, 1951, “Dear Mother, Dad, Grandpa, and Mel”  
February 15, 1951, “Dear Family”  
February 17, 1951, “Dear Mother, Dad, Grandpa, and Mel” (Includes College Choir 1951 tour list [ February 14, 1951 through May 13, 1951], program for 1950-1951 College Choir Season, 1951 Choir Tour dates, March 30, 1951 through April 11, 1951)
- 1-10 February 26, 1951 – March 10, 1951  
February 26, 1951, “Dear Family”  
March 1, 1951, “Dear Grandpa”

- March 10, 1951, "Dear Mom, Dad, Grandpa, Uncle Ben, Aunt Ida, and Mel"
- 1-11 March 30, 1951 – April 8, 1951  
 March 30, 1951, "Dear Family," mailed from Du Bois, Pennsylvania (Includes page from Gettysburg College Bulletin about Concert Choir with a photo of the choir)  
 April 4, 1951, "Dear Family," mailed from Buffalo, New York  
 April 8, 1951, "Dear Mom, Dad, Grandpa, and Mel," mailed from outside Pittsburg, Pennsylvania
- 1-12 April 13, 1951 – April 30, 1951  
 April 13, 1951, "Dear Family," mailed from 38 Stevens Hall  
 April 25, 1951, "Dear Dad, Mother, Grandpa, and Mel"  
 April 30, 1951, "Dear Family"
- 1-13 May 4, 1951 – May 17, 1951  
 May 4, 1951, "Dear Mom, Dad, Grandpa, and Mel"  
 May 17, 1951, "Dear Mother, Dad, and Mel"
- 1-14 September 17, 1951 – September 24, 1951  
 September 17, 1951, "Dear Mom, Dad, and Mel," mailed from 308 Hanson Hall  
 September 19, 1951, "Dear Family" (Includes Registration Instructions)  
 September 24, 1951, "Dear Family"
- 1-15 October 16, 1951 – [November 9, 1951]  
 October 16, 1951, "Hi, Folks!"  
 October 26, 1951  
 October 30, 1951, "Dear Family"  
 [November 9, 1951], Friday, 10:45 a.m., "Dear Folks"
- 1-16 November 17, 1951, "Dear Family"
- 1-17 November 27, 1951 – December 8, 1951  
 November 27, 1951, "Dear Mother, Dad, and Mel" (Includes letter from Cornell University, dated November 30, 1951)  
 December 8, 1951, "Dear Mother, Dad, and Mel"
- 1-18 January 7, 1952 – February 8, 1952  
 January 7, 1952, "Dear Family"  
 January 9, 1952, "Dear Mother"  
 January 16, 1952, "Dear Mother, Dad, and Mel"  
 January 12, 1952 [misdated], "Dear Family"  
 January 21, 1952, "Dear Family"  
 February 8, 1952, "Dear Mom, Dad, and Mel"
- 1-19 February 11, 1952 – February 17, 1952  
 February 11, 1952, "Dear Mom, Dad, and Mel"  
 February 14, 1952, "Dear Family"  
 February 17, 1952, "Dear Mom, Dad, and Mel"
- 1-20 February 21, 1952 – March 11, 1952  
 February 21, 1952, "Dear Dad, Mom, and Mel"  
 March 5, 1952, "Dear Family"  
 March 8, 1952, "Dear Mom, Dad, and Mumpy"  
 March 9, 1952, "Dear Family" (Postcard)  
 March 11, 1952, "Dear Mother" (Postcard)
- 1-21 March 15, 1952 – April 2, 1952  
 March 15, 1952, "Dear Mom, Dad, & Mary Ellen"  
 April 2, 1952, "Dear Family"
- 1-22 April 4, 1952 – May 9, 1952

- [April 4, 1952] Friday Eve., 7:15p.m.. "Dear Family"  
April 21, 1952, "Dear Family"  
April 22, 1952, "Dear Family"  
April 27, 1952, "Dear Family"  
May 9, 1952, "Dear Folks," mailed from Philadelphia, PA  
[Undated flyer] Pamphlet for the Barnyard Brawl  
1-23 May 18, 1952- May 19, 1952  
May 18, 1952, "Dear Family," mailed from 308 Hanson Hall  
May 19, 1952, "My Gettysburg Farewell Address" (Includes postcard of  
Lincoln's Gettysburg Address)  
May 19, 1952, "Dear Aunt Mary"

**Series 2 – Photographs and Miscellaneous**

- 1-24 Photographs and name sign  
Regulations Governing Change to Activities Fee--1950

**Removed from Collection**

Gettysburg Bunny and dink  
Location: Added to Artifact Collection

G Book 1950  
Location: Added to College publication collection

The Alumni Bulletin Vol. XLIII, No. 1 February 1953  
The Alumni Bulletin Vol. XLV, No. 5 June-July 1955  
Location: Added to College publication collections

Gettysburg/ Lehigh Sports Program, October 14, 1950  
Location: Added to subject vertical files

Application for Admissions to Gettysburg College, May 1949  
Location: Added to subject vertical files

**For more information about the Elizabeth Peeling Lyon Collection**

Interview with Albert S. Peeling ('25), conducted by Michael Birkner and David Hedrick for the Oral History Collection on June 3, 1995.  
Location: Reading Room