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MS-131: Bair-Kohler-Berger Family at 339 Carlisle Street Collection

Karen Dupell Drickamer
Gettysburg College

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MS-131: Bair-Kohler-Berger Family at 339 Carlisle Street Collection

Description

The collection contains documents, correspondence, photographs, newspapers, artifacts, and ephemera, documenting the lives of the Bair, Kohler, and Berger families who lived at 339 Carlisle Street, as well as information about Judge David Wills' family (business partners and friends of the Bair/Kohlers) as well as materials on Katalysine Springs and the Springs Hotel of Gettysburg.

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Keywords

Bair, Kohler, Berger, Judge David Wills, Katalysine Springs, Springs Hotel

Disciplines

Cultural History | History | Social History

Gettysburg College
Musselman
Library
special collections

**Guide to the
Bair-Kohler-Berger Family at
339 Carlisle Street Collection**



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

**Karen Dupell Drickamer
October 2017**

MS – 131: Bair-Kohler-Berger Family at 339 Carlisle Street Collection

(11 boxes, 3.5 cubic feet)

Inclusive Dates: 1893-1969

*Processed by: Karen Dupell Drickamer
October 2017*

Provenance: Gift of Marianne Larkin, '71

History:

The house at 339 Carlisle Street was built by Colonel Charles H. Buehler (1825-1896), a prominent member of the community, a member of the Class of 1844, and a trustee of Pennsylvania College. The house was built in the Italianate style and by 1891 it had been altered to reflect the Queen Anne style.

In 1896, the house was purchased by J. Emory Bair (1845-1914), a director of the Gettysburg National Bank. A veteran of the Civil War, Bair was very involved in the community and connected with the Gettysburg Knitting Company, the Gettysburg Canning Company, and the Land Improvement Company. Bair served as a trustee of the Pennsylvania College from 1896 to 1909. Bair and his wife, Mary Catharine Kohler Bair (1844-1834) raised their niece, Mary Catharine Kohler (1891-1971), a member of the Class of 1909, who married Clyde D. Berger (1890-1959), a Lieutenant in the Tank Corps at Camp Colt, Gettysburg. Mary Catharine Kohler Bair died in 1934 and Clyde and Mary Catharine Berger raised their four children in the house (their sons, Jesse, John, and Joseph all served in WWII). Their daughter, Mary Catharine, attended and graduated from Penn State University during WWII. She returned to Gettysburg where she and Bertram L. Larkin, son of Gettysburg College Professor George R. Larkin and Anna Larkin, were married on December 19, 1947, at a ceremony in the Carlisle Street Home. Bert and Mary Catharine Larkin resided at the home, during which time their daughter, Marianne Larkin, was born in March of 1949 and Bert graduated from Gettysburg College under the GI Bill in September of 1949.

The Alpha Theta Chi fraternity signed a three year lease for the house in 1951 from Clyde and Mary Berger. The Alpha Theta Chi became the Delta Omicron chapter of the Theta Chi fraternity on March 1, 1958, and the Alumni Association for the Delta Omicron Chapter purchased the house and property on December 1, 1958 from the Bergers for \$26,800.

Gettysburg College purchased the house and property in May 2010 and renovated it in 2013 to house both the Economics and the African American Studies departments.

The materials in this collection were originally collected and preserved by Joseph Berger, and given to Special Collections by his niece, Marianne Larkin, '71, following his death.

Scope and Content Notes:

The collection contains documents, correspondence, photographs, newspapers, artifacts, and ephemera, documenting the lives of the Bair, Kohler, and Berger families who lived at 339 Carlisle Street, as well as information about Judge David Wills' family (business partners and friends of the Bair/Kohlers) as well as materials on Katalysine Springs and the Springs Hotel of Gettysburg.

Series Description:

The collection is arranged chronologically by subject and genre. **Series I** includes a history of the Gettysburg National Bank with a biography of J. Emory Bair and materials of his niece, Mary Catharine Kohler. **Series II** contains records, correspondence, newspapers, and documents, of Clyde Berger's service with the Tank Corps in WWI at Camp Colt, Gettysburg, and in Europe; his involvement with the Tank Corp veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars as well as local organizations; and information about his three sons who fought in WWII. **Series III** contains ephemera collected by Joseph Berger while serving in Europe during and after WWII. **Series IV** contains documents and ephemera about the Springs Hotel and Katalysine Springs. **Series V** includes history about the David Wills family and their house on the square. **Series VI** contains photographs, prints, maps, and artifacts from the previous five series in several sizes over five boxes.

Box/Folder

Box 1

1/1 Inventory of collection and research notes

Series I: Bair/Kohler

- 1/2 *History of the Gettysburg National Bank*, 1914, with biography of J. Emory Bair pp. 92-93.
- 1/3 Article: "Agricultural Hall," by Elwood W. Christ and Walter Powell, *Gettysburg Times*, 17 Dec 1990. 2pp.
- 1/4 Composition book of Mary Catharine Kohler, 1908
- 1/5 Card to Mrs. Emma Kohler, Philadelphia, 22 Feb 1910
- 1/6 1910 US Census. Mary Catharine Kohler Berger
- 1/7 Daily Pass to Camp Tobyhanna, 303rd Tank Center for Miss Mary Kohler 11 August 1918.
- 1/8 Lincoln Birthday Service, 1938, presented to Mary Catharine Kohler Berger By Thomas Ambrose, "Company "A" 53 Ky. U.S.A. Gettysburg – 75 years after"

Series II: Clyde Berger

- 1/9 Clyde D. Berger's Officer's Record Book
- 1/10 Clyde D. Berger's Officer's Identity Card American Expeditionary Forces

- 1/11 Army Memorandum to [Officer] Candidates, 11 Aug 1917. Camp Lee, VA
- 1/12 Clyde Berger's WWI Orders and other paperwork, 1917-1919
- 1/13 Records, 351st Company Tank Corps, Camp Colt, 1918
- 1/14 Letter to Lt. Clyde Berger, Brennes, France, New Year's Day, 1919,
From the Boys of Co. A. ALS, 1 p.
- 1/15 WWI Solder's questions on subjects including military hygiene, military courtesy,
Military law, etc.
- 1/16 WWI song lyrics, n.d.
- 1/17 Berger's memoranda books (2), 1918-1919
- 1/18 351st Company Mess Ledger, 1918

Box 2

Series II: Clyde Berger, cont.

- 2/1 Newspapers: *Trench and Camp*, various issues, 1918-
- 2/2 Clyde D. Berger's Officers Reserve Corp paperwork, 1918, 1920
- 2/3 Inter Allied Games, Paris, 1919. Postcard and Program
- 2/4 Menu, Officers' Mess in Bourg, France, n.d.
- 2/5 Newspaper: *New York Herald*, 8 Nov 1918, European Edition – Paris
- 2/6 Newspaper: *American Daily Mail*, 12 Nov 1918. Armistice.
- 2/7 Newspaper: *New York Herald*, 5 Feb 1919, European Edition - Paris
- 2/8 Newspaper: *Stars and Stripes*, 13 June 1919
- 2/9 Newspaper: *New York Herald*, 7, 15, 27, June 1919
- 2/10 *The Chicago Tribune*, 6 June 1919, 26 June 1919
- 2/11 WWI era postal cards of Europe
- 2/12 Situation Report, 79th Division, Pennsylvania, 23 January 1922

Box 3

Series II: Clyde Berger, cont.

- 3/1 "The Five of Hearts at Exermont" by Arthur Snyder. TM, 8 pp. and
two photographs
- 3/2 *Blaw-Knox News*. Blaw-Knox Special Ordinance Division Newsletter
featuring the Berger Family. Vol. 2, No. 1, July 1945
- 3/3 Program, 23rd Annual Encampment, Ladies' Auxiliary Veterans of Foreign
Wars, Harrisburg, Pa., 16-19 July 1947.
- 3/4 Veterans of foreign Wars, letter, booklet, newspaper articles
- 3/5 World War Tank Corps Association information
- 3/6 1954 Tank Corps Reunion, Gettysburg, Pa.
- 3/7 1956 Tank Corps Reunion, Gettysburg, Pa.
- 3/8 Letter: Pres. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Washington, D.C., to Mr. Clyde D. Berger,
National Commander, World War Tank Corps, 13 October 1956. TLS, 1p
- 3/9 Invoice from lawyer for work on the final sale of 339 Carlisle Street house by
Clyde and Mary Berger to the Alumni Association of Delta Omicron

- Chapter of the Theta Chi Fraternity, 9 December 1958.
- 3/10 Obituary: Clyde Berger, *Gettysburg Times*, 7 July 1959
- 3/11 Booklet: *Veterans Life and Lafs*, 34 pp. n.d.
- 3/12 *The Tankerine*, Official Publication of Battalion #1, World War Tank Corps Association. Various issues, 1952-1960

Box 4

Series III: Joseph Berger

- 4/1 Installation and Maintenance of Telegraph printing equipment. War Department. Technical Manual. 2 July 1941. 403 pp.
- 4/2 Schematics and circuit drawings
- 4/3 American Enterprise in Europe: The role of the SOS in the Defeat of Germany. France: Chief Information and Education Division. USFET, 1945. 238 pp.
- 4/4 Ephemera: Germany, 1945-1946
- 4/5 *London ARC Light*. Vol.3 No.14, 6 January 1945
- 4/6 *War Week*, Saturday, 13 January 1945
- 4/7 Ephemera: WWII U.S. Army
- 4/8 *George VI: King and Emperor*, by Major J. T. Gorman. London: W&G Foyle Ltd, 1937. Given to "Joe" by the Vicar of St. Marks Barrow, England.

Box 5

Series III: Joseph Berger, cont.

- 5/1 Ephemera, postal cards, prayer books, England, 1944-45
- 5/2 Postal cards: Scotland, 1945
- 5/3 Postal Cards, map, photographs - Stratford-on-Avon
- 5/4 Ephemera: Denmark, 1945
- 5/5 Ephemera: Belgium, 1945
- 5/6 Engraving: Boerentoren, Antwerp, Belgium, 1932
- 5/7 Ephemera: Paris, 1945
- 5/8 Articles: on the death of Dwight. D. Eisenhower, *Gettysburg Times*, 28 March and 31 March 1969.

Box 6

Series IV: Katalysine Springs

- 6/1 Gettysburg Springs Hotel 1881 advertisement - papers of J. Emory Bair
- 6/2 "Gettysburg Katalysine Water," 1993. 4 advertising booklets
- 6/3 Katalysine Springs advertising ephemera: booklets, leaflets and flyers
- 6/4 Katalysine Springs, ledger of visitors 28 July 1935 – 11 Sept 1940

- 6/5 Katalysine Springs, permits, lab analysis, 1935-1943
- 6/6 Correspondence – Katalysine Springs land (1947-1953) and Sale Agreement to Gettysburg Development Corp., 1947.
- 6/7 Katalysine Springs news articles and ads, 1936 and 1937
- 6/8 Distribution contract, 1935, ALS, W.A.Kine, 1936, Shareholder’s agreement, 1937 – papers of Clyde Berger.
- 6/9 Historical information on Katalysine Springs and the Springs Hotel from www.gettysburgdaily.com

Series V: David Wills Family

- 6/10 David Wills family tree
- 6/11 “Historical Document Search. Cobean-Wills-Duncan-Stallsmith Building, Lincoln Square, Gettysburg, Adams County, Pennsylvania, by Elwood Christ. n.d. 75 pp.
- 6/12 Correspondence: David Wills, Edward Everett, Henry Ward Beacher, 1863-1864. 4 ALS, 12 pp.
- 6/13 Document: Thoughts on the occasion of the death of David Wills, infant son of Judge David Wills, by Rev. William Campbell, March 14, 15, 1873. 12 pp. (photocopy).
- 6/14 Photographs: Judge David Wills and Catharine Jane Smyser Wills, Gettysburg, Pa., ca. 1860. Prints from digital images from daguerreotypes.
- 6/15 Photographs: Jane Wills Quimbly, Thomas Preston, and daughter, Alda Jane Preston Bechtel. (originals). David Wills’s sons-in-law (photocopy).
- 6/16 Photograph: Wills family gathering – photocopy
- 6/17 Postal cards: Ireland, Paris, and Dresden. Collected by Judge and Mrs. Wills on their 1884 European trip.
- 6/18 Gettysburg High School Alumni Banquet Program, book and photos, Class of 1908_(Jane Wills Quimby Preston and Mary Catharine Kohler Berger’s class.) May 29, 1958. With Jane Wills Quimby’s class prophecy.

Box 7

Series VI: Photographs, memorabilia

- 7/1 Photograph: Carte de visite of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Bechtel and son, ca. 1870. (grandparents and father of George Sprenkle Bechtel who married Judge David Wills’s granddaughter, Jane Wills Quimby Preston.
- 7/2 Photograph: Gettysburg National Bank, 1896
- 7/3 Print: Pennsylvania College Campus, 1897
- 7/4 Photograph: Emma Jane Jones Kohler (1863-1932) and Coachman, ca. 1900
- 7/5 Photograph: Mary Catharine Kohler (1891-1971) and Mary Catharine Kohler Bair (1844-1934), with coachman in Devil’s Den, ca. 1905. (copy in

- folder, original in Conservation)
- 7/6 Photograph: Paul B. S. Rice, Class of 1911, 3 photographs
 - 7/7 Photograph: Lt. Clyde D. Berger portrait in uniform, ca. 1919
 - 7/8 Photograph: Unknown Officer (Lt.), ca. 1919
 - 7/9 Photograph: Allied Games in Paris, July 1919. Clyde Berger after high dive competition.
 - 7/10 Photograph: Parade with Col. Patton's Tank Corps, Washington, D.C., 1919
 - 7/11 Photographs: Tank Corps soldiers, n.d.
 - 7/12 Photographs: French Riviera, WWI Era (2)
 - 7/13 Photograph: Pikesville, Maryland Boy Scout Troop #353 camping in Gettysburg, 5 August 1935. Lt. Clyde Berger, District Commissioner, Boy Scouts of America and members of the Flying Eagle Patrol (and all three Berger boys).
 - 7/14 Photographs: Katalysine Springs, 1934-1942 (7)
 - 7/15 Photographs: Tank Corps, Homecoming Reunion, 1954 Tree Dedication (6)
 - 7/16 Photograph: World War Tank Corps Reunion, Gettysburg, PA
 - 7/17 Photograph: Large dinner event. Clyde Berger in center. n.d.
 - 7/18 Photograph: President D. D. Eisenhower receiving gold Combat Badge of the World Wars Tank Corps Association from National Commander, Wilson T Sweet, 1958
 - 7/19 Artifacts: Medals: Iron Cross Second Class, 1914
Disabled American Veterans
Commander; Society of American Military Engineers
 - 7/20 Ephemera: World Wars Tank Corps card, 2nd Lt. Clyde D. Berger's Dog Tags
 - 7/21 Artifact: Handkerchief, Souvenir de France, lace handkerchief brought back by Lt. Berger for Mary Catharine Kohler. Married 28 August 1919.
 - 7/22 Artifact: Clyde Berger's Tank Corps Insignia Tie
 - 7/23 Ephemera: Card: Vote for Clyde D. Berger, 1945;
Card: B.P.O.E 1045, "Welcomes World War Tank Corps," ca. 1954
Ticket: United States Railroad Administration, Pullman Car lines, Chicago to Denver

Box 8

Series VI: Photographs, Memorabilia, cont.

Small photographs and negatives of 339 Carlisle Street, its occupants, WWI events, local parades and events. Most of the negatives have been digitized – please request access from archivist.

Box 9

Series VI: Photographs, Memorabilia, cont.

Album: Cartes Postals. "Property of Lt. Clyde D. Berger, Tank Corps, US Army, American Expeditionary Forces, 1918-1919. U.S.A., England, France.

Places I have visited.” Fragile. Needs conservation.

Box 10

Series VI: Photographs, Memorabilia, cont. (Oversize)

Artifact: Flag – WWII three star service flag
Artifact: Tin, Bauer and Black Handi-tape for cuts and blisters, ca. 1935
Daguerreotype: Judge David Wills House on the Square, Gettysburg
Photograph: Unidentified family group in Devil’s Den, 1890s.
Photograph: Camp Colt, Gettysburg, 1918. Capt. D. D. Eisenhower front center
Photograph: 39th Annual Dinner, Tank Corps Post No. 715 at Famous Kitchen,
27 April 1957.
Photograph: Community Theater presentation (Mary Catharine Kohler Berger
Seated 7th from left).
Photograph: Monaco, 1919
Photograph: Class of 1909 Sub-freshmen, with Mary Catharine Kohler
Photograph: Springs Hotel, opened July 1 1869, Destroyed by fire 17 December 1917.
Engraving: Judge David Wills (3)
Newspaper: *Bayonet*. Feb. 8, 23 and March 15, 1918 issues.
Map: Washington D.C., 1932, topographical

Box 11

Map: Gettysburg, ca 1884-1887. On cloth.

Removed from collection from conservation and eventual housing in Map Drawers:
Map of Gettysburg Borough, 1841
1919 Map of France (2)

A family photograph album of the family was digitized and the original was returned to the donor. For access to digital files, please see an archivist.

For more information about on subjects covered in this collection:

- Subject Vertical File: Gettysburg Springs Hotel/Katalysine Springs.
- Photograph Vertical File: Katalysine Springs Hotel Stereoview
- Oversized Photographs: Student Groups, Box 4: Kohler family at dances
- Pamphlet Collection: Katalysine Springs brochures (see MUSCAT).

- World War I: *LibGuide* @ <http://libguides.gettysburg.edu/content.php?pid=12378>
- *Beyond the Run: The Emanuel Harmon Farm at Gettysburg* by Andrew I. Dalton
 - F157.A2 D358 2013.
- In addition, Mr. Joseph Berger gave to the following institutions, materials on the Bair, Kohler families, the Carlisle Street house, and the Wills family: the Adams County Historical Society, the Hanover Historical Society, and the Harrisburg Civil War Museum.

