Mary Collins Family Papers (H80-014)

Box 03584 B

Folder 1: Autobiography

This first page is labeled “Autobiography of Mary C. Collins in her handwriting.” The manuscript is undated but was written sometime after August 1911. IN her autobiography, Mary comments on the various problems and challenges of being a missionary among the Indians and on Indian customs.

Folder 2: Biographical Manuscripts

These manuscripts were not written by Mary Collins. Several were apparently written by family members. Several were written after Mary’s death.

Folder 3: Diaries, Journals, and Notebooks

Fragmentary entries for the time period 1865-1905 are included. Many of the entries contain little, if any, detail. The value of these diaries is less than that of the autobiography.

Folder 4: Documents

An undated carbon copy of Mary Collin’s will. Also included is a copy of her minister’s certificate dated October 30, 1899.

Folder 5: Bills and Receipts

Bills and receipts from various periods of Mary Collins’ life, being largely from the missionary period. They are mainly for supplies purchased for missionary work on the Standing Rock Agency.

Folder 6: Clippings

Assorted newspaper clippings dealing with Mary Collin’s life and activities. Many of the clippings are undated and unidentified.

Folder 7: Correspondence, 1860-1879

Included are assorted letters from 1860 to 1879. One letter appears to have been written by Mary Collins. The others are miscellaneous.

Folder 8: Incoming Correspondence, 1880 and 1886

Letters received by Mary Collins between 1880 and 1886. Subjects include mission work, personal matters, and the Indian land severalty bill of 1886.

Folder 9: Incoming Correspondence, 1887-1889

Letters received by Mary Collins between 1887 and 1889. Correspondents include James McLaughlin, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, A. L. Riggs, James Franklin Cross of the Rosebud Agency, and S. C. Armstrong of the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute. Subjects include affairs at the Standing Rock Agency, teaching in the Sioux vernacular, and affairs of the American Missionary Association.

Folder 10: Outgoing Correspondence, 1882-1889

Letters written by Mary Collins between 1882 and 1889. The letters deal mainly with mission affairs. One letter, dated January 14, 1886, describes traditional Teton Sioux life and how the whites are attempting to "civilize" the Sioux.

Folder 11: Outgoing Correspondence - Missionary Letters, 1886-1889

Letters written by Mary Collins for the American Missionary Association. The letters describe mission activities and events.

Folder 12: Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1880-1889

Assorted correspondence by various writers. Many of the letters either mention Mary Collins by name or refer to her work.

Folder 13: Miscellaneous Correspondence - Missionary Letters, 1888

Missionary letters written in 1888 during Mary Collins's absence from the Standing Rock Reservation.

Folder 14: Miscellaneous Correspondence - Collins Family, 1880-1889

Letters written to and from various members of Mary Collins's family. Mary Collins is both writer and recipient of some of the letters. Her mother and her nieces, Edith and Ethel, are among the correspondents.

Folder 15: Incoming Correspondence, 1890-1899

Letters received by Mary Collins between 1890 and 1899. A number of the letters deal with the Ghost Dance period of 1890-1891. One of the letters is from Agent James McLaughlin and describes the arrest and death of Sitting Bull. Several letters deal with an attempt to obtain a pardon for a Sioux tribal member imprisoned at the South Dakota State Penitentiary. There are also letters from the American Missionary Association.

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Folder 16: Incoming Correspondence - Mary P. Lord, 1893-1899

Letters written to Mary Collins from Mary P. Lord, a fellow missionary among the Sioux. Many of the letters are addressed to "Winona," which was Mary Collins's Indian name.

Folder 17: Outgoing Correspondence, 1891-1899

Letters written to Ethel Collins and Elias Jacobsen by Mary Collins.

Folder 18: Outgoing Correspondence - Missionary Letters, 1890-1899

Monthly missionary letters written between 1890 and 1899 by Mary Collins for the American Missionary Association.

Folder 19: Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1890-1899

Letters written between 1890 and 1899 that generally refer either to Mary Collins or to her work. Topics and correspondents vary.

Folder 20: Incoming Correspondence, 1900

Letters received by Mary Collins in 1900. Includes several letters from J. W. Davis concerning rations for the Indians and the position of the Indian Commissioner on reductions in those rations. Some letters deal with affairs on the Standing Rock Reservation.

Folder 21: Incoming Correspondence, 1901

Letters received by Mary Collins in 1901. The letters all deal with either Indian or mission topic. Correspondents include A. L. Riggs, F. P. Woodbury, missionary James Cross, U.S. Senator James Kyle, S. M. Brosius of the Indian Rights Association, and C. J. Ryder of the American Missionary Association.

Folder 22: Incoming Correspondence, 1902

Letters received by Mary Collins in 1902. A number of letters relate to the investigation of charges made against Indian agent George H. Bingenheimer. There are several letters from S. M. Brosius of the Indian Rights Association and members of the Riggs family.

Folder 23: Incoming Correspondence, 1903

Letters received by Mary Collins in 1903. The main correspondents are S. M. Brosius of the Indian Rights Association and Indian agent J. M. Carignan. Some of the Carignan letters deal with Indian schools.

Folder 24: Incoming Correspondence, 1904

Letters received by Mary Collins in 1904. The bulk of the letters deal with affairs on the Standing Rock Reservation and the Indian Rights Association. Correspondents include S. M. Brosius of the Indian Rights Association and Indian Commissioner F. E. Leupp.

Folder 25: Incoming Correspondence, 1905

Letters received by Mary Collins in 1905. The letters are mainly concerned with affairs at the Standing Rock Reservation and the Indian Rights Association. Correspondents include S. M. Brosius of the I. R. A. and Indian Commissioner F. E. Leupp.

Folder 26: Incoming Correspondence, 1906

Letters received by Mary Collins in 1906. With several exceptions, the letters are either from Indian Commissioner F. E. Leupp or the Indian Rights Association.

Folder 27: Incoming Correspondence, 1907

Letters received by Mary Collins in 1907. Many of the letters are from the Indian Rights Association, the Indian Commissioner, and the International Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations.

Folder 28: Incoming Correspondence, 1908-1909

Letters received by Mary Collins in 1908 and 1909. Correspondents include Doane Robinson of the South Dakota Department of History, F. E. Leupp and C. F. Larrabee of the Office of the Indian Commissioner, J. W. Copper of the American Missionary Association, and Rev. Charles M. Daley of the Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society.

Folder 29: Outgoing Correspondence, 1900-1904

Letters written by Mary Collins between 1900 and 1904. Most of the letters are from 1904, and are written to either Mary P. Lord, or to Indian Commissioner W. A. Jones.

Folder 30: Outgoing Correspondence - Missionary Letters, 1900-1908

Missionary letters written by Mary Collins between 1900 and 1908 for the American Missionary Association. The letters deal mainly with mission affairs.

Folder 31: Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1900-1908

Assorted letters written between 1900 and 1908. Many letters either mention Mary Collins or refer to her work or to Indian matters in general.

Folder 32: Incoming Correspondence, 1912-1917

Letters received by Mary Collins after her retirement as an active missionary. This folder contains three letters.

Folder 33: Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1912-1914

Two letters, one from 1912 and one from 1914, that do not mention or refer to Mary Collins. One of the letters is a Missionary Letter.

Folder 34: Writings - Manuscripts

Various handwritten manuscripts by Mary Collins. Indian customs and the problems of Indian missions and Indian life are the dominant themes.

Folder 35: Writings - Manuscripts

Various handwritten manuscripts by Mary Collins. Indian missions, Indian life, general commentaries on the state of the Indians, and personal reflections comprise the major subject areas.

Folder 36: Writings - Manuscripts

Various handwritten manuscripts and typescripts written by Mary Collins. The subjects include Indian affairs, Dakota geology, and Theodore Roosevelt.

Folder 37: Writings - Manuscripts

Various manuscripts written by Mary Collins. Poetry, Indian stories, Indian religion, and several sermons preached by Collins are among the subject matter. This folder includes a translation of a Ghost Dance song.

Folder 38: Writings - Publications

Various manuscripts written by Mary Collins. Poetry, Indian stories, Indian religion, and several sermons preached by Collins are among the subject matter. This folder includes a translation of a Ghost Dance song.

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Folder 39: Publications - American Missionary Association

Laws, bills, treaties, and committee hearings devoted to Indian affairs.

Folder 40: Publications - American Missionary Association

Assorted pamphlets published by the American Missionary Association and three issues of The American Missionary magazine.

Folder 41: Publications - Indian Rights Association

Various publications of the Indian Rights Association, including one issue of the Indian Truth magazine.

Folder 42: Publications - Riggs Family

Sketches and other published items concerning members of the Riggs family and their missionary careers.

Folder 43: Publications - Santee Normal Training School

Publications relating to the Santee Normal Training School run by the Riggs family on the Santee Reservation in Nebraska.

Folder 44: Publications - Society of American Indians

Membership brochure, statement of beliefs, and the constitution and by-laws of the Society of American Indians.

Folder 45: Publications - The Outlook

Two issues of The Outlook magazine from 1902 and loose pages of the magazine from 1904.

Folder 46: Publications - Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous publications from a variety of sources.

Folder 47: Sioux Vernacular Material

Manuscripts and correspondence written in the Sioux vernacular. The authorship of much of this material can probably be attributed to Mary Collins.

Folder 48: Wild West Shows

Articles, manuscripts, correspondence, and newspaper clippings portraying reactions to Wild West Shows and their effects on the Indians. The material concentrates on the 1891 Wild West Show of Buffalo Bill Cody.

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Folder 49: Indian Trust Fund Controversy of 1905

Material dealing with the controversy in 1905 over the use of Indian trust funds to support sectarian, especially Roman Catholic, schools among the Indians. Much of the material deals with speeches and hearings concerning the 1905 Indian appropriations bill.

Folder 50: Sectarian Garb in Government Schools Controversy of 1912

Letters, legal briefs, and pamphlets concerning the 1912 order of the Indian Commissioner prohibiting the wearing of sectarian costumes by employees and government Indian schools.

Folder 51: Collins Family Genealogy

Notebooks, pamphlets, clippings, certificates, Bible records, and manuscripts concerning the history and relationships of the various branches of the Collins family.

Folder 52: Miscellaneous

Assorted items including clippings, manuscripts, maps, and engraved name cards. Included is an account of the Battle of the Little Bighorn allegedly from Crazy Horse.

Folder 53: Photographs

Assorted photographs relating to the work of Mary Collins or her family. There are landscapes as well as portraits. Most of the photographs are labeled and appear to be from Collins' Standing Rock period.

1. Mission school room and native teacher's home at Running Antelope's village on Grad River, Dakota, ca. 1885. School and church bell on post in front.
2. Mrs. Collins portrait, ca. 1875
3. Mrs. Edwin Phelps - with two children. Elizabeth Winyan's daughter-in-law. Wiese children are great-great-grandchildren of Sleepy Eye.
4. Elias Gilbert and family. He was a missionary, previous he was arrested and in prison at Mankato after Minnesota uprising but was found not guilty and was released.
5. Three girls in native dress as they appeared when they first came to school at Oahe around 1880.
6. Grave of Mary Collins in Keokuk, Iowa.
7. Elizabeth Winyan - Sleepy Eye's granddaughter. Native missionary on the Cheyenne River.
8. Drawing of Oahe Mission made about 1887.
9. Fort Sully, undated - bird's eye view.
10. Two women and a little girl - not identified or dated. Barry photo.
11. One Bull - full front view and seated
12. His Scarlet Horse - head and shoulder front view
13. J. L. Canby home, ca. 1880s in Keokuk, Iowa.
14. Plan of Oahe Boarding School, ca 1885 (dim and will not reproduce well)
15. Mrs. Lizzie Lewis (George's wife) and children.
16. Ephraim and Margaret Collins graves - Keokuk, Iowa.

17. Delegation of Indians came from Cheyenne River Reservation to enact the Custer fight to amuse the white people, 1908-1909
18. Oahe Mission Chapel, October 1883 - shows Mary Collins along with 12 other people, in front of the chapel.

Folder 54: Photographs

Assorted photographs relating to the work of Mary Collins or her family. There are landscapes as well as portraits. Most of the photographs are labeled and appear to be from Collins's Standing Rock period.

19. Dr. A. L. Riggs and Dr. J. P. Williamson, undated
20. Miss Collins's house at Little Eagle, ca. 1913
21. Ethel Jacobsen, 1904
22. Mary C. Collins, about 18 years old
23. Messiah Chapel at Little Oak Creek, South Dakota, near Grand River at time of Mission meeting, September 1920
24. Little Oak Creek, South Dakota, Indian Mission meeting. Left of center mess tent where the white people, missionaries, and visitors ate. Food was prepared in a log house adjoining by Indian women.
25. Hilltop Cemetery at Little Oak Creek, South Dakota. Flag is at the grave of Jack One Bull, grandnephew of Sitting Bull who died in a military training camp.
26. Margaret Lewis Collins about 1880, and dog Gyp, a pet for many years.
27. Unidentified Indian family - man, woman, and three children.
28. Running Antelope's Village, 1890 - person sitting on porch.
29. Ruth Collins with horses, Frank and Daisy, in Grand River.
30. W. L. Collins home in Decaterville, Missouri.
31. Council of Oahe - several people seated on steps, 1907.
32. Group of people seated on steps of building, no location or date.
33. The government Indian boarding school near Little Eagle. Used only a few years and then torn down on account of poor water supply.
34. Elizabeth Winyan standing, Mary C. Collins seated, and Elida Scott on the right. Studio photo by Kelly.
35. Santee Normal School
36. Standing Rock - Congregational Mission Chapel
37. Indian Home on Grand River, 1890
38. Fort Yates - Congressional Mission, hospital and chapel located south of Agency
39. Mission meeting Booth - Congregational Mission at Fort Yates, circa 1892
40. Ration Day at Standing Rock Agency
41. Izuza Grindstone, wife and sons, Little Eagle, ca. 1892
42. Mission meeting at Standing Rock Agency, 1892. Shows a few men sauntering around, camera, American flag, and tree limbs covering a shelter.

43. Home of Mary Collins at Little Eagle, South Dakota, from 1885 to 1910. First known as Running Antelope. Photo taken about 1893 (excellent quality).
44. Home of Mary Collins at Little Eagle, South Dakota from a different angle than above photo (poor quality).
45. Dr. A. L. Riggs and Dr. J. P. Williamson. May be a duplicate of previous listing.
46. Home of Aunt Abigail Collins Hill.
47. Little Eagle - Indian policeman. Killed at Sitting Bull's capture and death on Grand River, 1890.
48. Ethel, Arthur, and Edith Collins about 1878. Studio photo.
49. Pupils and teachers from 1908-1909 sitting on steps at Oahe.
50. Family group at ration time. American Indian in buffalo coat, two women and three children in front of tent home. Good photo.
51. Government boarding school at Little Eagle, undated.
52. Last home of Ruth Collins Canby and Mary C. Collins in Keokuk, Iowa. Both died in 1920 - "they dearly loved this place."
53. Izuza Grindstone at Little Eagle, August 1891. Village herald. Friend of the missionaries.
54. Burt Foster Howard, Ethel Collins, and Mary C. Collins at Little Eagle, 1891. Photo taken in Mary Collins sitting room.
55. The old chief Grindstone - one of the men who fought Custer. Friend of the mission at Little Eagle (Running Antelope's Village), Grant River, South Dakota.
56. Bird's eye view of Indian Village, Grand River, 1891. Running Antelope's, later called Little Eagle. White buildings are the government day school and teacher's house. Miss Collins's home and Indian houses.
57. George Fire Cloud (Yuhamni'wan) died about 1891 at Little Eagle Village.
58. House at Oahe Mission - first occupied by W. L. Collins family, 1884. Ruth was born here in 1885.
59. Hospital, Mr. Reed's house and chapel - Fort Yates, North Dakota, July 1890s.
60. "Ark of the First Man" - Fort Berthold Reservation, Nebraska, 1933. Catlin called it the "Big Canoe."
61. "Camping Out" horse in background, wagon on the right, Mary Collins standing by tree on the left. Two men and two women seated on ground with picnic lunch.
62. John Jacobson's claim later E. J.'s....Dog Hollar, Peoria Township, Hughes County, 1894-1895.
63. Mrs. Little Eagle - Grand River.

Folder 55: Photographs

Assorted photographs relating mainly to the work of Mary Collins or to her family. There are landscapes as well as portraits. The pictures are not limited to Indian and mission subjects.

64. Mary C. Collins - portrait in later life.
65. Mrs. Collins and Lewis. Fiske photo.
66. Mary C. Collins - portrait (late teens or early twenties)
67. Miss Mary Collins - missionary among the Dakota Indians, 1874-1908
68. Home of Mary C. Collins at Running Antelope's Village (Little Eagle) on Grand River, South Dakota, circa 1895. House built for her in 1884 or 1885. She lived there until 1910.
69. Mary C. Collins - portrait in later life
70. Mary C. Collins - portrait (probably in her twenties)
71. Bessie, Gumbo, Miss Collins, and Barnably at Standing Rock Agency (on buckboard)
72. Mary C. Collins - portrait in later life
73. Horse at Oahe
74. Ruth C. Collins - Canning, SD
75. Arthur Collins seated at right with four other men and a covered wagon on the left of photo. Grand River boarding school in background on right of photo.
76. In front of Oahe Chapel, 1883. Chaplain, G. D. Crocker, Fort Sully in doorway and daughter by him. W. L. Collins in hat. Mary C. Collins with striped scarf. Indian women of neighborhood.
77. Edith Collins - portrait in graduation gown and cap.
78. Mrs. Ethel Jacobsen and Margaret Collins
79. Mary C. Collins, 1880
80. Mary C. Collins, November 2, 1878
81. Former home of M. C. Collins, Little Eagle, South Dakota. Occupied by her from 1885-1910. This picture was taken by her niece, Margaret Collins, on October 14, 1937, when she and her sister Ethel Collins Jacobsen revisited the place.
82. Home of M. C. Collins - located on Grand River, undated
83. Oahe Mission station, circa 1890 - shows the barn, mission home, chapel, old schoolhouse, and the boarding school (good picture)
84. Miss Collins cottage at Little Eagle Mission (good picture)
85. Miss Mary Collins - Mission station on Grand River (good picture)
86. Photo taken in front of Oahe Chapel, 1883 - Arthur Collins on horse, Baldy Standing, Mrs. Lauderdale, wife of doctor from Fort Sully, Miss Lane, Ethel Collins, Edith Collins, wife of an officer at Fort Sully, Theodore Riggs on horse, San on the right of photo. Seated is Mrs. W. L. Collins holding Lewis, Samuel Smiley, Tall White Man, Ellen Spotted Bear, and Mary C. Collins.
87. 8 snapshots - all unidentified and not of much interest

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Folder 56: Ethel Collins Jacobsen

The diary of Ethel Collins Jacobsen, a niece of Mary Collins.

Folder 57: Ethel Collins Jacobsen

Various assorted writings of Ethel Collins Jacobsen.

Folder 58: Ethel Collins Jacobsen

Correspondence of Ethel Collins Jacobsen between 1891-1937.

Folder 59: Ethel Collins Jacobsen

Diaries of Elias Jacobsen, husband of Ethel Collins.

Folder 60: Ethel Collins Jacobsen

Various writings and correspondence of Elias Jacobsen.

Folder 61: Ethel Collins Jacobsen

Various family records for the family of Ethel and Elias Jacobsen.

Folder 62: Ethel Collins Jacobsen

Various miscellaneous items.

Folder 63: Helen W. Meigs

Helen W. Meigs is a daughter of Ethel and Elias Jacobsen. This folder contains miscellaneous items from Mrs. Meigs's several donations that were accessioned in 1975. Much of the Meigs material was put in other parts of the collection when several Mary Collins donations were combined.

Folder 64: Wheeler-Howard Act of 1934

Several items pertaining to the Wheeler-Howard Indian Reorganization Act of 1934.

Folder 65: Miscellaneous Publications

Several miscellaneous pamphlets, booklets, and magazines that did not fit into the collection elsewhere. Among the items in this folder is an issue of North Dakota History and a centennial booklet for First Congregational Church of Pierre, South Dakota.

Several Folders of Unprocessed Material

Box 03328 C

Mary Collins Photo Album

- Photo 2 - Yellow Hair and Good Women

- Photo 3 - Scarlet Women and Walking Whirlwind
- Photo 4 - Emily Dupree and White Women
- Photo 5 - Mrs. Flying By and Daughter, Grand River
- Photo 6 - Ellen Spotted Bear, circa 1885
- Photo 7 - Eli Spotted Bear, 1885
- Photo 8 and 9 - Unidentified, Fort Yates Picture
- Photo 10 - White Bull, aged 90, lived near Fort Yates
- Photo 11 - Medicine Man dressed for Grass Dance
- Photo 12 - White Bird, enlisted soldier in 12th Infantry at Fort Yates, 1891
- Photo 13 - Indian women in "civilized" dress
- Photo 14 - Crow Eagle
- Photo 15 - Grass Dancer
- Photo 16 - Kate Howard, circa 1885
- Photo 17 - Spotted Horn Bull - killed with Sitting Bull
- Photo 18 - Mary Patterson Lord
- Photo 19 - One Bull as a young man
- Photo 20 - Unidentified photo
- Photo 21 - Louis De Witt
- Photo 23 - Mrs. James McLaughlin
- Photo 25 - Little Eagle
- Photo 27 - Grindstone
- Photo 28 - Crawler and Friend
- Photo 29 - Oscar One Bull
- Photo 30 - Standing Soldier's Daughter
- Photo 31 - Mato
- Photo 32 - Running Antelope's village later called Little Eagle, circa 1891
- Photo 33 - White Shield's Home
- Photo 34 - Miss Collins's home at Little Eagle
- Photo 35 - Flying By's Home

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Folder 64: Oversize Items

- Articles by Mary Collins - "Our Native Americans, The Indians" (from Congregational Work, June 1905) and "A Peep at the Natives of Alaska" (from Congregational Work, April 1899)
- "Financial Report for the Quarter Ending March 31, 1904, for Grand River Field, Little Eagle, South Dakota"

- “Favors to the Catholics / Manipulating Indian Trust Fund Accounts,” New York Evening Post, February 15, 1905
- Certificate of appointment and commission of Mary C. Collins as postmaster at Oahe, South Dakota, July 22, 1891
- Attendance record of Grand River Day School for April - June 1887
- Obituaries and eulogies for Mary C. Collins in the September/October 1920 issue of The Word Carrier (Iapi Oaye).
- Issue of The Word Carrier for February 1886
- November 18776 issue of Iapi Oaye (The Word Carrier) published in the Sioux vernacular
- Quarterly report of Indian schools for Oahe Indian Boarding School for the quarter ending September 30, 1890. Elias Jacobsen, principal, and Ethel Collins, teacher.
- Grand River Boarding School, Standing Rock Agency, Quarterly report of sick and injured for quarter ending December 31, 1904
- Assorted Indian pictographs, paintings, and drawings. The art is executed in several different mediums. Many of the pictures are done on old ledger book pages.
- Article by Herbert Welsh, “Demoralizing the Indians” from the New York Evening Post, April 27, 1891
- Blank report form for recording the transfer of pupils from an agency to an Indian school
- Page from the Boston Evening Transcript of March 8, 1934, showing the officials and members of the various branches and departments of the United States government as of February 1934
- Article by Stewart H. Holbrook entitled “Annie Oakley: She Was the World’s Best Woman Shot” which was printed either in Life or the Saturday Evening Post circa 1946