

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: **Diven Daihl, Velva (1905-2009)** **MC 2012.6**

Material: Papers (1912-2009)

Volume: 0.5 linear feet (1 Document Box, 4 Oversized Folders, 10 Photograph Folders, 6 Oversized Photograph Folders, and 1 Artifact Box)

Donation: Gift of Velva Diven Daihl, 2008

Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Velva Pearl Wagner Diven was born on June 3, 1905 to Sarah Elizabeth Wagner and Walter Byers Diven in Hopewell Township, PA. When Velva was a few years old, she and her family moved into Shippensburg, where she lived for most of the rest of her life. She attended the Shippensburg public schools and had almost perfect attendance in primary school. During her senior year she became a certified Sunday school teacher for United Brethren of Christ. She graduated from Shippensburg High School (SHS) in 1923. From 1923 to 1927 she attended Dickinson College on a State Scholarship that she had won. She was a member of the Beta Delta chapter of the Phi Mu sorority while at Dickinson and graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in English in May 1927. After graduation she moved to Harbor Creek in Erie County, PA to teach Latin, French, and social studies. In 1930 she moved back to her home town, Shippensburg, to teach English at SHS. In the summers she worked on her master's degree, in turn, at the University of Southern California at Los Angeles, University of Wisconsin at Madison, and finally at Pennsylvania State College, receiving her master of arts degree in English literature from the latter in 1937.

On June 18, 1938 she married Samuel Lester Daihl, also originally from Hopewell Township and a science teacher at SHS. Velva and Sam had a foster son, Martin E. Gingerich.

Samuel Lester Daihl was born on November 27, 1902 to parents David R. and Mary Bowers Daihl. Sam graduated from Cumberland Valley State Normal School (now Shippensburg University) in 1923 with a teaching certificate. After high school he taught, first at Otterbein in Lurgan Township, PA, then at Highspire High School in Highspire, PA, where he also coached four sports. In 1929 he received a bachelor of science degree from Albright College and then returned to teaching, this time for four years in New Jersey. In 1933 he moved back to Shippensburg and taught science there until 1948 when he became a guidance counselor.

In 1937 he received his master of arts degree from Columbia University and later also earned a master's degree in guidance and counseling from Penn State College.

In 1956, Velva became the chairwoman of the English department at SHS, as well as director of publications, and in 1959 she received the Freedoms Foundation Valley Forge Classroom Teacher Award. She and her husband both retired in 1965. After retiring she was the student teacher supervisor at Shippensburg University for a number of years. Velva and Sam enjoyed visiting Civil War battle sites and collecting books and Currier and Ives battle prints of the war. Sam died on May 20, 1998, and Velva followed him on August 1, 2009 at the age of 104.

Velva was a member of Messiah United Methodist Church in Shippensburg for most of her life, a charter member of both the Shippensburg Historical Society and Shippensburg College Club, a member of the PA Association of Retired Teachers, the Cumberland County Association of School Retirees, the PA State Education Association, National Education Association, and the National Retired Teachers Association. She was also a member of the Shippensburg Civic Club, Kittingtinny Historical Society, the Philanthropical Education Society, and the American Association of University Women. She was a past member of the book selection committee for the Shippensburg Public Library. She was a life member of Phi Mu and the General Alumni Association of Dickinson College, as well as a member of Friends of the Dickinson College Library from 1972 to 1990.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Velva Diven Daihl Collection contains papers primarily relating to the education and early work of Velva and her husband, Sam. The materials are divided into 11 series: Dickinson, Scrapbook, Velva Newspaper Clippings, Teaching, Grade School, Sunday School, Samuel L. Daihl Papers, Miscellaneous Papers, Oversized, Photographs, and Artifacts.

The Dickinson series is composed of eight subseries: Student Papers, Phi Mu, Class of 1927 Correspondence, General Alumni Association, Dickinson Fund Correspondence, Friends of the Library, Miscellaneous Alumna Papers, and Newspaper Clippings. All materials are arranged chronologically. The School Papers series contains papers from Velva's time as a student at Dickinson College, including her certificate of acceptance, report cards, and papers relating to the State Scholarship on which she attended Dickinson. The Phi Mu series is composed of papers relating to Velva's membership in the Beta Delta chapter of Phi Mu Fraternity, both while at Dickinson and later in life. The Class of 1927 Series contains four letters from the chairman of the Dickinson class of 1927 reunion committee, a 1962 reunion program, and a list of the names and addresses of the members of the class of 1927. In the General Alumni Association series are five letters regarding payments for life membership in the association, a receipt for one such payment, and a certificate of life membership. The Dickinson Fund Correspondence series contains 15 letters and notes relating to Velva's many years of giving to the annual Dickinson Fund. The Friends of the Library series is composed of nine membership cards and eight receipts of contributions from Velva's thirty plus years as a Friend of the Dickinson College Library. The Miscellaneous Alumna Paper series includes various papers relating to alumni events, a Mary Dickinson Club membership card, an alumni survey, and a certificate of appreciation from Dickinson College. In the Newspaper Clippings series are 12 articles about Dickinson from *The Evening News*, *The Patriot News*, *Public Opinion*, and *Metro West*, arranged chronologically.

The Scrapbook series contains one scrapbook of photographs and keepsakes primarily from 1927-1929, with loose materials from 1929-1934. The loose materials are arranged chronologically.

The Velva Newspaper Clippings series contains four articles about Velva from *The News Chronicle*, *The Sentinel*, and *Public Opinion*, as well as Velva's obituary in *The Sentinel*. The papers are arranged chronologically.

In the Teaching series are papers relating to Velva's time as a teacher, including contracts and her teaching certificate, arranged chronologically.

The Grade School series is composed of Velva's report cards from second through twelfth grade and a certificate for perfect attendance in tenth grade. The materials are arranged chronologically.

The Sunday school series contains a diploma for four year membership in the Junior Society of Christian Endeavor and a certificate for completing a Sunday school teacher training course, arranged chronologically.

The Samuel L. Daihl Papers series is composed of *The Daihl (Diehl) Family of Cumberland Valley Pennsylvania* by Samuel Lester Daihl, papers relating to Sam's time teaching at Highspire High School, and a certificate of appreciation from President Truman, arranged chronologically.

The Miscellaneous Papers series contains various papers dating from 1923 to 2006, including a certificate of appreciation from President Truman and a certificate of induction into the Alabama Century Club from Alabama Governor Bob Riley. The papers are in chronological order.

The Oversized series is housed separately in four oversized folders and contains grade school certificates for good attendance, four diplomas, one teaching award, and one article about Velva Daihl, in chronological order

The Photographs series is housed separately in 10 photograph folders and contains 29 photographs and one set of photographs of Velva's Shippensburg senior class mounted together on one board. The photographs are divided into the following subseries: People, Shippensburg, Harbor Creek, Miscellaneous, and Oversized. The People subseries contains 16 photographs of Velva and her friends and is arranged alphabetically. The Shippensburg subseries contains a photograph of a Shippensburg High School reunion. In the Harbor Creek subseries are pictures of the faculty and staff of Harbor Creek school, arranged chronologically. The Miscellaneous subseries contains two photographs of Niagara Falls. The Oversized subseries is housed separately in six oversized photograph folders and contains four class pictures of Velva's and two pictures from Samuel's time at Highspire High School, all arranged chronologically.

The Artifacts series is housed separately in one artifact box and is composed of Velva's Valley Forge Classroom Teacher's Medal, name badges, and Dickinson and Carlisle collectables.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 - MC 2012.6

DICKINSON

STUDENT PAPERS

- Folder 01) State Scholarship papers – 1923
- Folder 02) Certificate of acceptance to Dickinson College – c1923
College bill– 1925
Photocopy of page from 1923 *Microcosm* with notes to Velva
- Folder 03) College Report Cards – 1923-1927

PHI MU

- Folder 04) Certificate of initiation into Phi Mu Fraternity – Mar. 27, 1924
Phi Mu Fraternity life membership card
Spring Formal dance card – May 16, 1931

CLASS OF 1927

- Folder 05) Charles R. Irwin, Jr., letters from – 1957-1972
Class of 1927 reunion dinner program – 1962
Updated list of Class of 1927 – 1987

GENERAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

- Folder 06) Bills, letters and receipts re: life membership – 1958-1961
- Folder 07) Certificate of life membership – Apr. 30, 1958

DICKINSON FUND CORRESPONDENCE

- Folder 08) Letters and receipts – 1959-1990

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

- Folder 09) Membership cards and receipts of contributions – 1972-1990

MISCELLANEOUS ALUMNA PAPERS

- Folder 10) Invitation to Dickinson's 175th anniversary celebration – 1948
Mary Dickinson Club certificate of membership card – 1970
Alumni survey and letter – 1985
Alumni weekend programs and schedule – Jun. 12-14, 1987
Certificate of Appreciation from Dickinson – Jun. 3, 2005

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

- Folder 11) Articles about Dickinson – 1967-1986

SCRAPBOOK

- Folder 12) Scrapbook – 1927-1929
- Folder 13) Loose scrapbook materials – 1929-1934

BOX 1 - MC 2012.6 (cont.)

VELVA NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

Folder 14) Articles and obituary – 2004-2009

TEACHING

Folder 15) Teaching Certificate – Jun. 27, 1927
Teaching Positions – 1927-1930
Harborcreek High School Commencement Program – May 29, 1928
Certificate of Appreciation for teaching in Shippensburg – May 17, 2007

GRADE SCHOOL

Folder 16) Primary school report cards – 1912-1919
Folder 17) High school report cards – 1919-1923
Folder 18) Certificate of perfect attendance – 1922

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Folder 19) Junior Society of Christian Endeavor diploma – May 9, 1920
Sunday School Teacher Training Course certificate – Jan. 11, 1923

SAMUEL L. DAIHL PAPERS

Folder 20) Highspire High School Class Day program – Jun. 1, 1925
Cody Stampede brochure – Jul. 4-6, 1927
Dauphin County field day schedule – May 5, 1928
“Only 38” ticket – May 25, 1928
Highspire High School Class Day program – May 29, 1928
Certificate of appreciation from President Truman – Oct. 10, 1948
Folder 21) *The Daihl (Diehl) Family of Cumberland Valley Pennsylvania* – 2008

MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS

Folder 22) Letter from Ruth with clipping about the State Scholarship – Jan. 6, 1923
Certificate of Appreciation from President Truman – Oct. 10, 1948
Invitation to Democratic county dinner rally – Oct. 17, 1956
Letter from Samuel Daihl – Feb. 5, 1971
Obituary of Rolland Adams in *New York Times* – Sep. 3, 1979
Certificate of induction into Alabama Century Club – May 1, 2006

OVERSIZED - OC 2012.6

Folder 01) Certificates for good attendance and punctuality – 1913-1916, 1918-1920
Folder 02) Shippensburg High School diploma – May 29, 1923
Sunday School Standard Teacher Training Course diploma – Jan. 21, 1925
Folder 03) Dickinson College B. A. diploma – Jun. 8, 1927
Pennsylvania State College M. A. diploma – Jun. 7, 1937

OVERSIZED - OC 2012.6 (cont.)

- Folder 04) Valley Forge Classroom Teacher's Medal certificate – May 15, 1959
Letter to Mr. Wall with note about the Valley Forge Teacher's Award
Clipping from *The News Chronicle* – Jun. 1, 2000

PHOTOGRAPHS - PC 2012.6

PEOPLE

- Diven Daihl, Velva
Folder 01) Velva Diven, Jo Wright, Mrs. Wright, and Vi Oiler – undated
Velva Diven, Vi Oiler, Ruby Heuton, and Nora Sheridan – undated
Velva Diven, Jo Wright, Nora Sheridan, and Vi Oiler – undated
Velva Diven and Vi Oiler – undated
Folder 02) Velva Diven, Vi Oiler, and Jo Wright – undated
Velva Diven (Daihl), Jo Wright, and Vi Oiler (Barton) – undated
Velva Diven (Daihl), Jo Wright, and Vi Oiler (Barton) – undated
- Karns, Billie
Folder 03) Karns, Billie – undated
- Oiler, Vi
Folder 04) Vi Oiler and Helen Purdy– undated
Vi Oiler, Nora Sheridan, Jo Wright, and Mrs. Heuton – undated
Vi Oiler, unnamed woman, and Helen Purdy– undated
Vi Oiler and Helen Purdy– undated
- Oyer, Russell
Folder 05) Oyer, Russell – undated
- Wright, Jo
Folder 06) Jo Wright and Mrs. Wright – undated
Jo Wright and unnamed man– undated
Jo Wright – undated

SHIPPENSBURG

- Folder 07) Attendees of reunion of SHS class of 1923 – undated

HARBOR CREEK

- Folder 08) Teachers of Harbor Creek – undated
Students and faculty of Harbor Creek High School – undated
Senior class of Harbor Creek High School with some faculty – undated
Folder 09) Portrait of unnamed woman – undated
Portrait of unnamed woman – undated

MISCELLANEOUS

- Folder 10) 2 photographs of Niagara Falls – undated

PHOTOGRAPHS - PC 2012.6 (cont.)

OVERSIZED

- Folder 01) Shippensburg High School Junior class – 1922
- Folder 02) Cardboard mounted portraits of Shippensburg High School Class of 1923
- Folder 03) Alumni Students of Cumberland Valley State Normal School Summer School – 1924
- Folder 04) Highspire High School first football team – 1925
Two name keys to above photograph, with some differences
Letter from Margaretta to Sam and Velva re: names of people in photo
- Folder 05) Dickinson Class of 1927 – c1927
- Folder 06) Highspire High School Party at Mt. Vernon – May 10, 1928

ARTIFACT BOX 1 - AC 2012.6

- Item 01) White, red and gold Carlisle Bi-Centennial commemorative plate – 1951
- Item 02) Valley Forge Classroom Teacher's Medal – May 15, 1959
- Item 03) Velva Diven Daihl Golden Alumni nametag – 1987
- Item 04) Sam. L Daihl Dickinson Commencement Guest button
- Item 05) White hat with Dickinson seal
- Item 06) Cummings Wallace J., Howard Pa., Dickinson name button
- Item 07) Red and white Dickinson College pen
- Item 08) Red and white porcelain Dickinson College ash tray
- Item 09) Glass Dickinson College seal ash tray
- Item 10) Pewter platter with Dickinson College seal

This collection register was prepared by Lily Key, May 2012.