



ArchivesSpace

Mildred McKinley Abele papers, 1912-1948

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Maine Women Writers Collection

Abplanalp Library
University of New England
716 Stevens Avenue
Portland, Maine 04103
cmiller10@une.edu
URL: <http://www.une.edu/mwwc>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Maine Women Writers Collection
Creator:	Abele, Mildred McKinley, 1903-1968
Title:	Mildred McKinley Abele papers
ID:	0223
Date [inclusive]:	1912-1948
Physical Description:	.75 linear feet
Language of the Material:	English

Preferred Citation

Mildred McKinley Abele papers, Maine Women Writers Collection, University of New England, Portland, Maine

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Biographical/Historical Note

Mildred Frances McKinley was born in the Miramichi River hamlet of Upper Nelson, New Brunswick on May 4, 1903, the next-to-youngest child of Harriet McGinnis McKinley and Charles McKinley. She studied at a one-room schoolhouse through the eighth grade. Because of the remoteness of her home and the poverty of her family, she was unable to attend high school because there was no money for a boarding house or for clothing. At the age of twenty-four, McKinley applied to Nursing School at the Cary Memorial Hospital in Caribou, Maine. Upon graduation, she worked in Maine, but yearned for the big city life. On October 8, 1931, she “left for New York with Lundgren on sudden impulse,” but by December 1932 she was back in Caribou again, as work was scarce in New York. By November, 1933, however, she had returned to New York, and she remained there, doing both private-duty and hospital nursing. In December, 1940, she married Charles Louis Abele, a hospital orderly, at the Little Church around the Corner in Manhattan. They lived in the Bronx and had three daughters, Joanne Margaret (1942), Jeanne Enid (1943), and Hollis Alexandra (1947). Mildred’s sister, Martha Kelley, came to live with the family and care for the children. In 1954, Mildred bought a house in Peekskill, New York, then, in 1962 moved to an apartment in Yonkers, New York. Charles died in 1965, and Mildred, having made sure that her daughters had all the education they would agree to, continued to work as a nurse in New York City until her death in 1968.

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Collection Scope and Content

The Mildred McKinley Abele Collection spans the dates 1912-1948. This collection includes personal correspondence, examination notes from nursing school, earlier education materials, graduation certificates as well as a diary, bank book and CD of scanned images. The correspondence begins in her first year as a probationary nursing student (1927) at Cary Memorial Hospital in Caribou, Maine. The bulk of McKinley's correspondence are written to her mother and sister in New Brunswick. These letters follow her educational experiences and chronicle her search for work in depression era America. The letters give insight into the life of a nurse working during the first half of the 20th century.

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Arrangement

This collection is organized as a single series. Arranged by subject.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access

Collection is open for research.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Genealogy
- Nursing
- Depressions -- 1929 -- United States
- Caribou (Me.)
- Birth certificates
- Reproductions
- Diaries
- Ephemera
- Correspondence
- Lace
- Abele, Mildred McKinley, 1903-1968
- Abele, Mildred McKinley, 1903-1968

General

Encoded by:
Laura Taylor

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Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
McKinley Family History, undated	Box 1	Folder 001
Common School Arithmetic (Public Schools of New Brunswick), 1894	Box 1	Folder 002
Textbook, New Brunswick, undated	Box 1	Folder 003

Birth and Marriage Certificates, 1927 (1903), 1941	Box 1	Folder 004
Sunday School certificates and diplomas, 1913-1919	Box 1	Folder 005
Short Story "Real Bravery" by Phyllis Morann, 1925	Box 1	Folder 006
Photocopies of Cary Memorial Hospital acceptance letter and recommendation letter, 1927	Box 1	Folder 007
Cary Memorial Hospital documents, 1927,1930	Box 1	Folder 008
Photocopies of examination notes, 1928	Box 1	Folder 009
Cary Memorial Hospital graduation certificate, 1934	Box 1	Folder 010
Registered Nurse certificates, 1930, 1940, 1948	Box 1	Folder 011
Diary, 1931	Box 1	Folder 012
Bank book, 1934	Box 1	Folder 013
Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church program and correspondence, M. McKinley to sister, 1939, 1941	Box 1	Folder 014
Church membership certificate, 1948	Box 1	Folder 015
Naturalization certificate and Resident Alien card, 1944, 1946	Box 1	Folder 016
Greeting cards, undated	Box 1	Folder 017
Correspondence from Mildred to Martha, 1912, 1917	Box 1	Folder 018
Correspondence, 1927 July-August	Box 1	Folder 019
Correspondence, 1927 September-December	Box 1	Folder 020
Correspondence, M. McKinley to mother and sister, 1928 February-April	Box 1	Folder 021
Correspondence, M. McKinley to mother, sister and brother, 1928 June-December	Box 1	Folder 022
Correspondence to mother and sister, 1929	Box 1	Folder 023
Correspondence, M. McKinley to mother, sister and brother, 1930	Box 1	Folder 024
	Box 1	Folder 025
Correspondence, 1931	Box 2	Folder 026
Correspondence, 1932	Box 2	Folder 027
Correspondence, M. McKinley to sister and nieces, 1933	Box 2	Folder 028
Correspondence, 1934	Box 2	Folder 029
Correspondence letter fragment, undated	Box 2	Folder 030
Correspondence, 1935	Box 2	Folder 031
Correspondence, M. McKinley to sister, 1936-1937	Box 2	Folder 032
Correspondence, 1938	Box 2	Folder 033

Correspondence, M. McKinley to sister, 1942	Box 2	Folder 034
Correspondence, to Enid from Mother (Martha), 1943	Box 2	Folder 035
Correspondence, husband to sister re: M. McKinley, 1943, 1945	Box 2	Folder 036
Correspondence, M. McKinley to mother, 1947	Box 2	Folder 037
Correspondence, M. McKinley to various, 1948-1968	Box 2	Folder 038
CD of photo and document scans (1903-1948), 2010	Box 2	Folder 039
Scanned scrapbook pages (1903-1948), 2010	Box 2	Folder 040
Nurses' cap, undated	Box 2	Folder 041
Tatting	Box 2	Folder 042
Examination papers (13), 1928-1930, undated	Box 2	Folder 043