

26/20/66
Alumni Association
Alumni
Melissa G. Stidham Papers, 1930-36, 1939-43, 1946-60

Box 1:

John Milton, reading, farm work, Dec. 27, 1930
Cicero, reading, Thomas Hardy, gardening, students, birds, Aeschylus, friends, Magazines, Stuart Sherman, baseball, classes, writing, May-August, 1931
Percy Shelley, teaching, travel, Sept.-Dec. 1931
C-U bus strike, Henry S. Canby, Henry D. Thoreau, birds, poor travelers, Jan.-July 1932
Horse, Milton, Joe Stidham's trip to a Chicago concert, rooming in Champaign dogs, Aug.-Dec. 1932
Radio, calf, music, chickens, Jan.-July 1933
Canning, Brooks' visit to Mahomet, Henry Wallace & Milo Reno, farm strike, Aug.-Dec. 1933
Chauncey Baldwin, flowers, moving, May-Aug., 1934
Brooks' 1934-35 year in LAS at Champaign-Urbana, Stidham family, A.G. Belcher YMCA, laundry, students, Witter Bynner poetry, Sept.-Dec. 1934
English class, employment, John Galsworthy; Robert Browning, students, pickets, Jan.-March 1935
Jewish students, gardening, pacifism, farming, April-July 1935
Student discussions, Emily Bronte, Dante, William A. Oldfather, Sept.-Dec. 1935
Reading, Keats, Jan. 1936
New Republic, Saturday Review, Heywood Broun, students, Feb. 1936
Strikes, socialism, March-May, 1936

Box 2:

By 1939, Gordon Brooks returned to New York and Melissa Stidham had returned to Mahomet. Their addresses were:

Brooks addresses from envelopes

Idlewhyle, Virginia Beach, VA 9/22/31 - 9/25/31
403 Ocean Ave. Brooklyn, NY 12/29/30 - 12/26/31
68 Woodruff Ave., Brooklyn, NY 6/10/32 - 8/23/32
29 Brevoort Place, Brooklyn, NY 8/29/33 - 8/29/34
Mahomet, IL 9/6/33
201 East Green St., Champaign, IL 9/20/34 - 9/23/35
218 Third Ave. SE Minneapolis, MN 11/17/35 - 5/9/36
137 East 17th St., New York, NY 6/10/39 - 10/4/39
1823 Church Ave., Brooklyn, NY 6/26/40 - 9/6/41
81 W. 12th St., New York, NY 6/30/42-8/11/42
120 Broadway, New York, NY % Carr Bros. 9/6/42
358 State St., Brooklyn NY 9/9/42 - 9/14/42
Room 2729, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 12/7/42 - 1/19/43
358 State St., Brooklyn, NY 1/29/43 - 3/30/43
6314 South Ellis Ave., Chicago, IL 9/9/46 - 10/27/46

4320 Emerald Ave., Chicago, IL 1/30/47
5222 Dorchester Ave., Chicago, IL 6/3/46 - 12/16/48
P.O. Box 942 Asbury Park, NJ 9/6/48 - 4/8/54
277 Broadway, Newark, NJ 4/26/54 - 11/10/54
218 Broad St., Newark, NJ 11/17/54
53 Johnson Ave. Newark, NJ 11/20/54 - 2/1/55
726 Ridge St., Newark, NJ 2/4/55
95 Hillyer St. Orange, NJ 2/18/55 - 8/27/55
133 Cleveland St., Orange, NJ 9/1/55 - 11/28/60
18 Summit St. East Orange, NJ 07017, 3/31/65 - 4/22/65

Stidham addresses from envelopes

547 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 12/29/30
11 Montague Terrace, Brooklyn, NY 9/22/31
20 Rensen St., Brooklyn, NY 12/26/33
8 Pierrepont St., Brooklyn, NY 9/20/34 - 6/25/35
54 Garden Place, Brooklyn, NY 9/23/35 - 5/9/36
126 Joralemon St., Brooklyn, NY 10/4/39
Mahomet, IL 1939-57

Stidham's 80 acre farm was in T10N, R7E, Section 12, northeast of Mahomet

Dates on letters are from postmarks unless month & date are in the author's hand
Gordon Brooks' notes on contents of letters are on the backs of attached envelopes

Haying, game preserve lease, German, Heywood Broun, music, letter writing, health, July-Oct. 1939
Jane Austen, Franklin D. Roosevelt, farmers, June-Sept. 1940
H.G. Wells, health, family, Jan., June-July 1941
Birds, racial groups, Carl Sandburg's July Speech on the war, Olive Schreiner, Aug.-Sept. 1941
Dogs, sheriff's meal money profits, Lula Williams (Black lady), chickens, June, Aug.-Sept. 1942
Farming, military service, hawks, John Dewey, fascism & war, Nov.-Dec. 1942
Conduct of pacifists, poverty, New York, "have-nots", war work, birds, weather, farming, war guilt, Thoreau, Jan.-March, Dec. 1943
Horses, conservation, controversies over conservation, letters to Courier editor Robert Sink, court case, transcendentalism, Thoreau, May-July, Sept. 1946

The last 2.1 cubic feet from Oct. 1946 to 1957 contain more letters and longer letters, often ten a month. Stidham reported news of her life in Mahomet and discussed mutual friends, art and literature. She opposed hunters, trespassers, and the nearby Lake of the Woods development. (6 folders), Oct. 1946 - Aug. 1947

Box 3:

(12 folders), Sept. 1947 - Dec. 1949

Box 4:

26/20/66

3

(7 folders), Jan. 1940 - April 1951

Box 5:

(10 folders), May 1951 - Dec. 1952

Box 6:

(10 folders), Jan. 1953 - Aug. 1954

Box 7:

(10 folders), Sept. 1954 - April 1956

Box 8:

(5 folders), May 1956 - Feb. 1957

After 1955, Ms. Stidham's health declined, Her last letter was written on Feb. 21, 1957 and she died on April 9, 1957. The papers contain two letters from Torkom Boyajian (March, July 1957) and letters from brother Joe Stidham about farm life, the loss of his sister and his health problems (8 folders), May, 1957 - Dec. 1960.