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MERRILL, AUSTIN HEATON
(1859-1900)
PAPERS
1825-1966

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INTRODUCTION

The Austin Heaton Merrill Papers (1825-1966) are centered on Austin H. Merrill (1859-1900) and family members, including Pearl (Daniel) Merrill (1869-1953). Austin H. Merrill, born in Maryland, teacher, principal, and professor of elocution, moved to Nashville, Tennessee, and began the School of Expression at Vanderbilt University in 1888. Merrill became a well-known dramatic reader and recitalist. The papers have been donated by Mrs. Duncan Everett of Nashville, Tennessee.

The materials in this collection measure 1.68 cubic feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Austin Heaton Merrill Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Austin H. Merrill Papers, consisting of approximately 962 items and spanning the years 1825-1966, are composed of account books, advertisements, cards, clippings, correspondence, diaries, drawings, invitations, lists, notebooks, obituaries, photographs, poetry, programs, sketches, tributes, and several miscellaneous items.

The papers refer to several members of the Merrill, Daniel, and Moore families. Austin H. Merrill was married in 1892 to Pearl Daniel (1869-1953), who was the sister of Mary Trotwood Moore (1875-1957), the State Librarian and Archivist of Tennessee from 1929-1949. The Merrill's had two children, Austin Jr., and Elizabeth (Merrill) Everett, who is the donor of the collection.

A sketch written about the life of Austin H. Merrill (Box 4, folder 15) could be used as an introduction to the collection. Printed in memoriam by the Old Oak Club in 1900, the sketch, or tribute, to Professor Merrill presents him as an acclaimed and refined master of elocution. Having achieved many accolades in the East, Merrill began the School of Expression at Vanderbilt University in 1886, and continued until his premature death at forty-one, during the peak of his career.

The collection contains only a few personal items belonging to Austin H. Merrill in the form of correspondence, notebooks, a photograph, and the playbook, "Esmeralda." There are eight letters written, mostly to Pearl, in the last days of his life at Tate Springs, Tennessee, where he was expected to recover from "nervous exhaustion." There are four notebooks which have some personal thoughts and poetry, outlines of lectures, and one volume of recommendations.

There are a considerable number of items about Austin H. Merrill in the form of clippings (biographical reviews), correspondence (letters of recommendation by universities, professors, chancellors, and peers), programs of dramatic readings, and tributes.

The bulk of the collection, however, pertains to Pearl Merrill, who outlived her husband by fifty-three years. She never remarried, and lived part of the time in St. Louis, Missouri, where she was the manager of the St. Louis Women's Club. There are many miscellaneous greeting cards, postcards, and clippings, as well as correspondence, photographs, poetry, programs, school records, and tributes.

Correspondence between Pearl (Daniel) Merrill and her parents reveal some interesting facts, as well as a diary about the life of her father, Henry Clay Daniel, who was a prominent lawyer and politician from Cass County, Missouri. A rare photograph of the Daniels is included.

There are a few items of Austin H. Merrill Jr. (1893-), who became a mining engineer and lived in the West, in Nevada, Alaska, and San Francisco, California. There is correspondence about his wife, Vine, and the children, Peter, Patty, and Austin, Jr., along with photographs of mines.

There are nine letters from Merrill Moore (the son of John Trotwood Moore and Mary Trotwood Moore) to his Aunt Pearl. Merrill Moore, a prominent psychiatrist, writer of sonnets, and member of the "Fugitives" from Vanderbilt, wrote of his experiences in the South West Pacific Islands during World War II. There are advertisements for his published sonnets along with clippings about his writings. A rare photograph of Moore in uniform in 1944 taken in New Zealand is included.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Account Books – Ledger – Campbell, William, 1825-1831
2. Account Books – Ledger – Expenses, 1919-1922
3. Advertisements – Published sonnets – Moore, Merrill, 1950
4. Cards – Entertainment – Firelite Fortune Teller, 1926
5. Cards – Greeting – Merrill, Pearl (Daniel)
6. Cards – Greeting – Merrill, Pearl (Daniel)
7. Cards – Greeting – Merrill, Pearl (Daniel)

Box 2

1. Cards – Postcards – Merrill, Pearl (Daniel)
2. Cards – Postcards – Merrill, Pearl (Daniel)
3. Clippings – Miscellaneous
4. Clippings – Biographical reviews – Merrill, Austin, 1890-1900
5. Clippings – Miscellaneous maps
6. Correspondence – Anderson-Clark
7. Correspondence – Cole-Curtis
8. Correspondence – Dake, Francis
9. Correspondence – Daniel, Elizabeth (Brown)
10. Correspondence – Daniel, H. Clay
11. Correspondence – Dryden-Griffin
12. Correspondence – Harris-Holt
13. Correspondence – Laird-McGill
14. Correspondence – Merrill, Austin H., (1900)
15. Correspondence – Merrill, Austin H., Jr.
16. Correspondence – Merrill, Pearl (Daniel)

Box 3

1. Correspondence – Merrill, Pearl (Daniel)
2. Correspondence – Merrill, Pearl (Daniel)
3. Correspondence – Moore, Merrill
4. Correspondence – Motlow, Felix
5. Correspondence – Moore-Price
6. Correspondence – Rodgers-Webb
7. Correspondence – Letters of Recommendation to Austin Merrill, 1881-1922
8. Diaries, memoirs, etc. – Daniel, H. Clay, 1859-1922
9. Drawings – World War II – Everett, Duncan, Jr.
10. Invitations – Receptions – Miscellaneous
11. Lists – Books, names, etc. – Merrill, Pearl (Daniel), 1941-1948
12. Notebooks – Accounts, notes, & poetry – Merrill, Austin, 1888-1909
13. Notebooks – Calling list – Daniel, Pearl, 1890

14. Notebooks – Classic Selections from Best Authors – Merrill, Austin, 1890
15. Notebooks – Introductory Talk on Vocal Expression – Merrill, Austin, 1890
16. Notebooks – Recommendations – Merrill, Austin, 1883-1891
17. Obituaries – Moore, Mrs. John Trotwood, 1957
18. Passes – Miscellaneous – 1888-1900

Box 4

1. Photographs – Merrill, Moore; Daniel families, 1890-1944
2. Photographs – Miscellaneous, 1890-1947
3. Poetry – Miscellaneous – Printed, 1918-1947
4. Poetry – Miscellaneous – Printed, 1919-1949
5. Poetry – Booklet, 1900
6. Printed Materials – Newsletter – 1960-1961
7. Printed Materials – Program – “Maude Adams,” 1989
8. Printed Materials – Playbook – “Esmeralda,” 1881
9. Printed Materials – Publications – *The Scarritt College Voice*, 1947
10. Programs – Dramatic readings – Merrill, Austin, 1890-1900
11. Programs – St. Louis Women’s Club – West End Methodist, 1944-1947
12. School Records – Composition – Merrill, Elizabeth, 1909
13. School Records – Composition – Merrill, Austin, Jr., 1910
14. Scrapbooks – Merrill, Elizabeth, 1939-1940
15. Sketches – In memoriam – Merrill, Austin, 1900
16. Tributes – Clippings – Memorials and obituaries – Merrill, Austin, 1900
17. Tributes – Merrill, Pearl (Daniel), 1953
18. Tributes – Biographical – Moore, John Trotwood, 1927-1957
19. Writings – “Synopsis of Brutus and Cassius” – Moonman, R.M.

NAME INDEX

This is a name index of only the correspondence in the Austin Heaton Merrill Papers, together with the dates of the letters and information regarding their contents. The figures in parentheses denote the number of letters, if more than one. The last numbers refer to the box and folder in which the material is to be found.

- Allen, James L. to Whom It May Concern, 1891, re: recommendation, 3-7
- Anderson, Lillie to Pearl (Daniel) Merrill, 1952, re: personal news from an old schoolmate, 2-6
- Bernell, W.A., to Whom It May Concern, re: geology professor's recommendation, 3-7
- Bozesm, Hjalmar H. to Austin H. Merrill, 1892, re: recommendation
- Brown, Mrs. Walter (2) to Pearl Merrill, 1948-1952, re: family and personal news; description of dogs on a fox hunt, 2-6
- Bush, Mrs. B.F. to Pearl Merrill, 1944, re: personal news; member of the St. Louis Women's Club, 2-6
- Cabell, B.F., to Whom It May Concern, 1891, re: enjoyed rendition of "Uncle Edenburg's Drowning," 3-7
- Cady, C.E., to Whom It May Concern, 1891, re: recommendation, 3-7
- Cameron, P. Caleon to Austin H. Merrill, 1890, re: mentions water color painting, "Breakers at Asbury Park" belonging to Merrill, 2-6
- Capps, Kati to Pearl Merrill, 1920, re: congratulations on becoming manager of the St. Louis Women's Club, 2-6
- Clark, S.H. to J.T. McGill, 1900, re: concerns an article by Dr. Curry about Austin Merrill, 2-6
- Cole, Helen to Pearl Merrill, 1951, re: personal news, 2-7
- Conway, Clara to Austin H. Merrill, 1891, re: recommendation, 3-7
- Cornelia to Pearl Merrill, 1901, re: personal news; shared religious thoughts, 2-7
- Crawford, Mary Louise to (Aunt) Pearl Merrill, 1935, re: family news; mentions sailboat regatta at Biloxi, Mississippi, 2-7
- Crawford, Mrs. Owen (3) to (sister) Pearl Merrill, 1935, re: family news; mentions David Dale and family members; several novels she has read, 2-7
- Cunningim, J.L. to Pearl Merrill, 194, re: personal news, 2-7
- Curtis, Kate to Pearl Merrill, 1947, re: personal news about the St. Louis Women's Club, 2-7
- Dake, Francis (7) to Pearl Merrill, 1923-1953, re: reminiscence of friendship; memories of Vanderbilt with the Merrills; mentions grandchildren; Amish people in the country; memories of Austin and Pearl, 2-8
- Daniel, Elizabeth (Brown) (13) to (daughter) Pearl Merrill, 1903-1940, re: family matters; mentions several telephone conversations; great-grandchildren; comforts of riding on a "modern" train, 2-9

Daniel, H. Clay to Pearl Merrill, 1922, re: mentions President Harding's foreign policy with Europe; biographical sketches; predictions about the growth of Kansas City; mentions job as Financial Agent of Cass County, Missouri, and how he saved the county from debt, 2-10

Demmon, Isaac N. to Whom It May Concern, 1882, re: recommendation, 3-7

Dryden, Cynthia M. to Dr. McGill, 1891, re: mentions copies of a memorial; a tribute article about Austin Merrill in the *Vanderbilt Observer*, 2-11

Dwight, William B. to Whom It May Concern, 1885, re: recommendation, 3-7

Everett, Elizabeth to (Mother) Pearl Merrill, 1943, re: family news, 2-11

Gailand, L.C. to Whom It May Concern, 1887, re: recommendation, 3-7

Griffin, Julia H. (2) to Pearl Merrill, 1935, re: appreciation, 2-11

Hamberlin, L.R. to Whom It May Concern, 1898, re: mentions scene from "Rip Van Winkle"; recommendation, 3-7

Handy, L. Irving to Whom It May Concern, 1885, re: mentions Merrill as elocutionist for the Delaware State Teacher's Association; recommendation, 3-7

Harris, Albert M. to dr. McGill, 1908, re: mentions article in *Warner's Magazine* about Austin Merrill, 2-12

Heff, Silas S. to Whom It May Concern, 1881, re: recommendation, 3-7

Henley, James W. to Pearl Merrill, 1946, re: mentions a church program, 2-12

Holt, Ivan L. to Elizabeth Everett, re: personal news and encouragement, 2-12

Holt, Ivan L. (4) to Pearl Merrill, 1933-1937, re: news of ministry work in China; personal news, 2-12

Hooper, Franklin W. to Austin H. Merrill, 1899, re: recommendation, 3-7

Kirkland, J.H. to Whom It May Concern, re: recommendation, 3-7

Kurt, Charles W. to Austin H. Merrill, re: recommendation, 3-7

Laird, Nell (3) to (Aunt) Pearl Merrill, 1938-1952, re: family news; mentions a Presbyterian Mission in New Jersey; mentions death of a family member, 2-13

Lovelace, Griffin M. (3) to Pearl Merrill, 1949-1952, re: personal news; travels, description of "Willowbrook"; books read, 2-13

Lovelace, Griffin M. to the Duncan Everetts, 1966, re: mentions memory of Pearl Merrill, 2-13

McGill, Mrs. John T. (3) to Elizabeth Everett, 1960, re: personal news; poetry of Pearl Merrill; reminiscences, 2-13

McWhirter, F.P. to Austin H. Merrill, re: performance at the Sabbath School, 3-7

Merrill, Austin H. to Mrs. H. Clay Daniels, 1896, re: visiting home of his sick mother as she lay dying; thankful for Pearl, 2-14

Merrill, Austin H. (7) to Pearl Merrill, 1900, re: personal matters; last letters by Austin before death; ill condition in bed at hotel, expecting to recover, 2-14

Merrill, Austin H. Jr., to (sister) Elizabeth, ca. 1900, re: family news; a child's letter with pictures attached, 2-15

Merrill, Mrs. Austin H., Jr. to Pearl Merrill, 1936, re: family news; moving to San Francisco soon; living conditions in the desert; enrolled at Mill's College; news about the mining business; 2-15

Merrill, Austin H., Jr. (4) to (Mother) Pearl Merrill, 1943-1953, re: personal news; mining activities; copy of a report to colleagues; family news; mentions son Peter is in Japan; Peter is coming home soon; birthday, 2-15

Merrill, Patty (2) to Pearl Merrill (grandmother), 1926, re: personal news, 1-15

Merrill, Pearl (10) to parents, 1892, re: family news; meeting the Dakes; life at Vanderbilt campus; money matters; wedding presents; social activities; decorating the home (after marriage); thankful for an indoor bath; domestic work; benevolent work; mentions country home of Jane Washington, "Wessyngton"; discuss plans to travel to Maryland; teaching a Sunday School class; sending pictures to relatives, 2-16, 3-1, 3-2

Merrill, Pearl (2) to Dr. McGill, 1900-1901, re: personal news; mentions article in *Warner's Magazine* defending husband; Mame's Steinway piano; contains list of club members, 3-2

Merrill, Pearl (2) to the Duncan Everetts, 1930-1940, re: family news; many visitors mentioned; birth of granddaughter Mannie Louise; family news; description of trip by train, 3-2

Moore, Mrs. John Trotwood to Pearl Merrill, 1937, re: family news; mentions condition of Besse; sudden death of Judge DeWitt (who was President of the Tennessee Historical Society); she says, "The job has been turned over to me ." 3-3

Moore, Merrill (9) to (Aunt) Pearl Merrill, 1937-1953, re: announces birth of daughter named Hester; family news; WWII duty doing psychiatric therapy; life and conditions on Islands; at home on leave due to "nervous exhaustion" must report back to duty; mentions visiting Pearl; requests material for his scrapbook; mentions receiving a painting from Pearl, "the old Monk reading" (includes one page of information about the painting); mentions picture of Uncle Austin appearing in issue of the *Vanderbilt Alumnus*, 3-3

Moore, Mrs. Merrill to Pearl Merrill, 1951, re: thanks for the painting of "the Monk", 3-3

Moore, Mary Daniel to Pearl Merrill, 1952, re: personal news; life in California for one year, 3-5

Morris, W.H. to Austin H. Merrill, 1897, re: recommendation, 3-7

Motlow, Felix (4) to Mrs. John Trotwood Moore, 1949, re: owner of an old Monroe clock who wants to sell it to the highest bidder; contains history and description of the clock; includes (4) letters of reply from Mrs. Moore, 3-4

Moulton, Irene W. to Pearl Merrill, 1951, re: news from the Women's Club, 3-5

Powers, James K. to Austin H. Merrill, 1900, re: recommendation, 3-7

Powers, Leland to Austin H. Merrill, re: recommendation, 3-7

Price, Miss Elizabeth (4) to Pearl Merrill, 1927-1944, re: personal news; reminiscences; mentions several friends and places in Nashville, 3-5

Raub, A.N. to whom it may concern, 1885, re: recommendation, 3-7

Reyman, Alfred H. to Austin H. Merrill, re: recommendation, 3-7

Richardson, Locke to Austin H. Merrill, re: recommendation, 3-7

Rodgers, N. to Pearl Merrill, 1942, re: news from the St. Louis Women's Club, 3-6

Shoemaker, Mrs. J.W. to Whom It May Concern, 1882, re: recommendation, 3-7

Smith, Charles Foster to Whom It May Concern, 1887, re: recommendation, 3-7

Sowageol, Wilma to Pearl Merrill, 1925, re: personal news; several mutual friends; furnishings in her studio home (which was formerly the Denver Dry Goods Company); impressions of Denver, 3-6

Summey, George to Whom It May Concern, re: recommendation, 3-7

Thompson, Maurice to Dr. Baskerville, 1889, re: visit to Monteagle, TN; praises the performance given by Austin Merrill, 3-7

Tyler, Moses C. to Austin H. Merrill, 1892, re: recommendation, 3-7

Tyndale, Theodore H. (2) to Austin H. Merrill, 1895, re: recommendation, 3-7

Washburn, Charles C. to Pearl Merrill, 1944, re: personal news, 3-6

Webb, Graham R. to Mrs. John Trotwood Moore, 1952, re: personal news; mentions Pearl Merrill, 3-6

Wilkinson, William C. to Whom It May Concern, 1896, re: enjoyed presentation of "Esmeralda"; recommendation, 3-7