

Guide to the Gilliland-Ravithis Collection – 1981.04

Reference code US CoGrCGM 1981.04
Title: Gilliland-Ravithis Collection
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Finding aid prepared by Ashley Baranyk

Name and location of repository Hazel E. Johnson Research Center
Greeley History Museum
714 8th Street
Greeley, CO 80631
Phone: (970) 350-4187
Email: museums@greeleygov.com
URL: <http://greeleymuseums.com/>

Collections Summary

Dates 1869-1953
Bulk dates 1945-1953
Level of description Collection
Extent 1.15 cubic feet
Creator(s) Meeker, Gilliland, and Ravithis families

Administrative/Biographical History

Biographical note of Maud Meeker Gilliland

Maud Meeker Gilliland was born in East Cleveland, Ohio on May 4, 1871 to Eliza 'Lida' Shaw Meeker and Lemuel Cleveland Meeker. Lemuel Meeker was the brother of Nathan Cook Meeker, founder of Greeley, Colorado. Maud attended elementary school in Greeley, but moved to San Jose, California with her mother while in high school. However, she moved back to Greeley and graduated from Greeley High School in 1891. Maud taught elementary school in both Greeley and Eaton.

Maud was a noted artist, poet, and calligraphist. Around the turn of the century, Maud moved east to study art. She met Dr. A. B. Gilliland, a psychiatrist in Philadelphia, whom she married. They had no children before his death in the 1940s.

Maud returned to Greeley after A. B. Gilliland's death. From 1947 until December 1953, she acted as the curator of the Meeker Memorial Museum. She had much experience as a collector before she became curator; in 1924, she loaned numerous Native American artifacts from her personal collection to the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) for display and use in classes

on early civilization. As curator of the Meeker Memorial Museum, Maud laid the foundation for the present-day City of Greeley Museums.

After stepping down from the position of curator in 1953, she moved into the Wide Horizon sanatorium in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. She died in their care on July 25, 1956.

Biographical note of John Thomas Ravithis Jr.

John Thomas ‘Tom’ Ravithis, Jr. was the neighbor of Maud Meeker Gilliland when his family moved from Milliken to Greeley in 1943. He graduated from Greeley High School, and shortly after Tom enlisted in the Marines in 1955 and served until 1957. He married Jo Ann Siglinger in 1959. Tom was one of the primary donors of the collection and resided in Anchorage, Alaska at the time of the donation in 1981.

Scope and Content

This collection consists primarily of diaries, scrapbooks, clippings, and books belonging to members of the Meeker and Ravithis families. The primary subjects of this collection are Maud Meeker Gilliland’s artistic inclinations and later years in Greeley, and Ralph Lovejoy Meeker’s time abroad. Other items in this collection include religious booklets, travel souvenirs and resources, and the newspaper writings of Lilian Whiting.

System of arrangement

No original order. Imposed order given according to object type, then organized by person or subject.

Conditions governing access

There are no restrictions on the access of this collection.

Conditions governing reproduction and use

There are no restrictions on the use of this collection.

Languages and scripts of the materials

Danish, English, German, Icelandic, Latin

Custodial history

Collection consists of items from Maud Meeker Gilliland, A. B. Gilliland, and Ralph Lovejoy Meeker, which were passed onto Maud Meeker Gilliland’s neighbor, John Thomas ‘Tom’ Ravithis Jr. Items in collection with no known ties to Maud Meeker Gilliland are believed to belong to Tom Ravithis. Items belonging to both Tom Ravithis and Maud Meeker Gilliland were donated to the museum in 1981 by Tom and Nick Ravithis.

**Immediate source
of Acquisition**

Materials in this collection were donated by Tom and Nick Ravithis.

Names

Gilliland, A. B.
Gilliland, Maud Meeker
Meeker, Ralph Lovejoy
Ravithis, John Thomas Jr.

Places

Caucasus
Greeley (Colo.)
Mediterranean Sea
Russia
Turkey

Contents

Series I: Diaries

Subseries A: Maud Meeker Gilliland

Diaries written and owned by Maud Meeker Gilliland.

Subseries B: Ralph Lovejoy Meeker

Diary written and owned by Ralph Lovejoy Meeker.

Series II: Autograph Album

Autograph album gifted to Maud Meeker Gilliland by Ralph Lovejoy Meeker filled with autographs of Maud's family and friends.

Series III: Correspondence

Subseries A: Meeker

Letters and cards written to and from members of the Meeker family.

Subseries B: Henry T. West

Letter written to Hon. Henry T. West regarding the first flag raising in Greeley.

Subseries C: Mr. Hefron

Postcard to Mr. Hefron.

Series IV: Scrapbooks

Scrapbooks believed to have been created or gathered by Maud Meeker Gilliland.

Series V: Poetry

Poem and drawing, possibly by Maud Meeker Gilliland.

Series VI: Publications

Publications belonging to Maud Meeker Gilliland, A. B. Gilliland, and other unknown owners.

Series VII: Newspapers

Newspaper article clippings about Colorado, travel, and foreign affairs.

Series VIII: Maps

Maps of Eastern Europe.

Container List

Series I: Diaries

Subseries A: Maud Meeker Gilliland

Box	Folder
1	1

Subseries B: Ralph Lovejoy Meeker

Box	Folder
2	2

Series II: Autograph Album

Box	Folder
1	3

Series III: Correspondence

Subseries A: Meeker

Box	Folder
1	4

Subseries B: Henry T. West

Box	Folder
1	5

Subseries C: Mr. Hefron

Box	Folder
1	6

Series IV: Scrapbooks

Box	Folder
1	7

Series V: Poem

Box	Folder
1	8

Series VI: Publications

Box	Folder(s)
1	9-19

Series VII: Newspapers

Box	Folder
1	20

Series VIII: Maps

Box	Folder
1	21