

Accession # 1997-2

GENEALOGY/BIOGRAPHY
Lillian Shirley Collection

BIOGRAPHICAL

Lillian Catherine Sundin Shirley was born in Waltham. She was graduated from Waltham High School in 1929 and earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees at Boston University . She married Morrison Potter Shirley in 1940. Mrs. Shirley worked as an English teacher at Waltham High School, serving as chair of that department. She retired in 1975 and went on to serve on the School Committee. A member of Beth Eden Baptist Church, Mrs. Shirley was a founding member of the Waltham Council of Churches. In 1981 she was recognized for tolling the church bells of Beth Eden every day for 444 days in remembrance of the United States' hostages held in Iran from 1979-80. She served many volunteer organizations and was recognized by many institutions for her work. Mrs. Shirley died on June 4, 1996.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection includes 10 series including and related to: Photographs, Reunions, Retirement Luncheon, Correspondence, Newsclippings, Churches, Waltham History, City Government, Waltham Schools, Hovey Players programs.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

1. Photographs *(See photo index for item list)*

Most photographs in this collection are housed together in boxes one and two of the collection. A few individual photographs are housed in folders with other material. For example, a photo of Lillian Shirley with Mayor Stanley at a PTO lasagne dinner is housed with PTA materials. Items within the photographs series are arranged in 8 folders.

There are many turn-of-the-century photographs of Waltham Schools here. There are a large number of Thomas Hill School photos dating from circa 1911 to 1955. Housed in the photo series are views of the Thomas Hill School building, class photos, student candids, and photos of the "WCOP Quizdown." Other schools represented in this collection are the Nathaniel P. Banks School, Plympton School, Whittemore School, North Junior High School and Waltham Senior High School. Lillian Shirley's Class of 1929 is well represented here. There are photos of them and of the Class of 1928. There are many reunion photos of Mrs. Shirley's friends.

An interesting sub-series of photographs includes portraits of the Barnes and Hartwell families. Housed in 2 folders are images of Thomas Henry Barnes, Frank Lawrence Barnes, Lisbeth Wright, Ely Wright, Blanche Barnes, Margaret Barnes, Cephas

L. Hartwell, Daisy Raymond, Phineas Lawrence Barnes, and Elizabeth Miles Barnes. A photo of their house is also included.

2. Reunions

In addition to Mrs. Shirley's Reunion Class photos in the previous series, planning records and memorabilia related to the reunions of the Waltham High School Class of 1929 are housed here. Guest Lists, clippings, menus, correspondence, facts about class members, bills, and transcripts of speeches are among the items in this series. The Reunion records comprise 5 folders. There is another folder for the 50th Reunion of the Class of 1910.

3. Retirement Luncheon

On June 18, 1975 a celebration was held in honor of Mrs. Shirley's retirement from the Waltham Public Schools. Housed in two folders are guest lists, cards, correspondence, and newsclippings.

4. Correspondence

This is a slim folder of general correspondence to Mrs. Shirley.

5. Newsclippings

Mrs. Shirley was very active in Civic affairs and maintained a large collection of newsclippings related to city and national events. This clipping collection was recorded in an automated index and was then discarded. The items remaining relate directly to Lillian Shirley. Included here are articles about her bell ringing work for the United States Iranian hostages. Also found here is an article about Mrs. Shirley's urging for the upgrading of the Paine Estate.

6. Churches

A 75th Anniversary booklet, the booklet for the dedication of the Memorial Chime at Beth Eden, and a history of the church are found here. A thank you note, from Library Archivist Betty Castner to Lillian Shirley, regarding a donation of papers related to the church is also included here.

Mrs. Shirley was active in church affairs, serving on the Waltham Council of Churches. Records of the Council are housed here in 2 folders. Materials include: a photo of the Council Committee, miscellaneous Council reports and meeting minutes, programs of special ceremonies, and prayer services, Annual Reports (1965, 1975, 1979, 1981-82, 1987, 1995), correspondence, and the Council's constitution. Housed in a separate folder is information about the Waltham Council of Churches Youth council. It is a slim subseries with limited information about Church youth activities in Waltham.

7. Waltham History

2 folders of Waltham History materials are housed here. Materials related to the 250th Anniversary celebrated in 1988 include: flyers, correspondence, Church brochures and historical data, and a calendar of historic Waltham events. The second folder of history materials includes: a published list of Waltham Savings Bank building photos, Historical Society brochures celebrating the 250th anniversary of Waltham and the 80th of the Society, and a list of the Brandeis Waltham Group summer programs for 1986.

8. City Government

This is a slim folder of brochures from the 1976 and 1984 inaugurations of Mayor Arthur J. Clark, and invitation and brochure to the 1986 inauguration of Mayor William Stanley.

9. Waltham Schools

10 folders related to the Waltham Public Schools are housed here and include or relate to: Concert Programs, PTA Council, School Committee, Talent Show programs, Waltham Teachers Association, General materials, Class Day, Graduation Exercise Programs, High School playbills, and sports. (Most photographs related to the schools are housed separately in the first series.) The first folder contains concert programs from events presumably attended by Mrs. Lillian Shirley. Notable in this series is: a 25th anniversary brochure (1955) for the PTA Council, a photo of Mrs. Shirley representing the Council, a handbook of Rules of the School Committee (1966), a flyer to elect Mrs. Shirley for the School Committee and a survey of the 1975 School Committee candidates, Waltham High School Sports Scrapbook (1935-38). The scrapbook originally included newspaper clippings of Waltham's football, basketball and hockey teams. It was photocopied for preservation purposes and due to the poor condition of the originals, the clippings were discarded. Original items include photos of the football team, the official football song of the high School and football season schedules for 1933, 1935 and 1937.

The General material subseries houses: Testimonial dinner brochures and information for Charles E Boyd, Raymond Crawford, Effie G. Higgins and Verner F. Robinson, Senior Social Ticket (May 24, 1929), Senior Class Valentine Party ticket (February 8, 1929), Senior Prom brochures (1975 and 1979), National Honor Society Induction Brochure (1974), New Waltham High School Dedication and Open House brochure (1969), 50th Anniversary brochure for Fitch School (1982), Waltham High School Reading List (1958), Waltham High School stationary.

10. Hovey Player Programs

This is a group of programs from shows presumably attended by Mrs. Shirley.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST
GENEALOGY/BIOGRAPHY
Lillian Shirley Collection

- | <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> |
|-------------------|--|
| 1 | Photographs - Waltham Schools, 1925--1968, ND
Photographs - Thomas Hill School, 1904--1955, ND
Photo Album - North Junior High School Class of 1923
Photographs - Waltham High School Class of 1928 and Class of 1929
Photographs - Waltham High School Class Reunions, 1978--1994
Photographs - Unidentified, ND |
| 2 | Photographs - Barnes and Hartwell Families, ND (2 folders)
Waltham High School Class of 1910 - 50 th Reunion booklet, 1960
Waltham High School Class of 1929 - 25 th Reunion
Waltham High School Class of 1929 - 50 th Reunion
Waltham High School Class of 1929 - 55 th Reunion
Waltham High School Class of 1929 - 60 th Reunion
Waltham High School Class of 1929 - 65 th Reunion
Retirement Luncheon, 1975 (2 folders)
Correspondence, 1975, ND
Newsclippings, 1980-81 |
| 3 | Beth Eden Baptist Church, 1965, 1985--1987, ND
United States Iranian Hostages -
Photograph, poem and certificate presented to Lillian Shirley for ringing the bells at Beth Eden in honor of the US Iranian hostages, 1981 (not boxed)
Certificate of Appreciation, 1981 (not boxed)
Waltham Council of Churches, 1965--1995 (2 folders)
Waltham Council of Churches Youth Council, 1955--1963 |
| 4 | Waltham History - 250 th Anniversary, 1988
Waltham History - Historic Waltham, Waltham Historical Society and the Waltham Group, 1955, 1986--1993
Waltham City Government - Mayoral Inaugurations, 1976--1986
Waltham Public Schools - Concert Programs, 1925--1964
Waltham Public Schools - PTA Council, 1940, 1950--55, 1987
Waltham Public Schools - School Committee, 1975
Waltham Public Schools - Talent Show Programs
April 5, 1956
November 24, 1959
April 12, 1962
April 4, 1963
April 9, 1964
Waltham Public Schools - Waltham Teachers' Association, 1939-40, 1963
Waltham Public Schools - General Materials, 1926--1979 |

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>
4 (cont.)	Waltham High School - Class Day
	1935
	1939
	1940
	1958
	1975
	Waltham High School - Graduation Exercise Programs
	1925
	1926
	1928, 1929
	1931
	1935
	1940
	1955
	1960
	1964
	1968
	1969
	1971
	1975
	Waltham High School - Playbills, 1923--1971
	Waltham High School - Sports Scrapbook, 1935-1938
	Hovey Players/Hovey Memorial Institute Programs, 1939-1940