

Mary Lee Keith Jackson Papers  
1919-1987

| <u>Box</u>            | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Description</u>   | <u>Date</u>      |
|-----------------------|---------------|--|------------------|
| <i>Correspondence</i> |               |  |                  |
| 1                     | 1             | Letter: from Superintendent of Sabine Parish schools to: Mary L. Keith re: job offer as English/History teacher  | 1919             |
| 1                     | 2             | Letters (14) to Mary Lee from college friends, Russell and Crochet   | 1918-1921        |
| 1                     | 3             | Letters (6) to Mary L. Keith from Robert B. Jackson  | 1920-1921        |
| 1                     | 4             | Letters (15) to Mary K. Jackson from son, George at West Point; sister, Pearl; friend, Flavia Lambert and from her mother  | 1938; 1945; 1947 |
| <i>Photographs</i>    |               |  |                  |
| 1                     | 5             | Keith Brothers: William, Perry Polk and Henry u.d. Perry Polk Keith, planter, sportsman, and founder of Keithville served sixteen years in the state legislature |                  |
| 1                     | 6             | Mary Lee Keith (5) from infant to college graduate<br>Mary K. Jackson (1) teacher at Many High School  |                  |
| 1                     | 7             | Photo album: Mary and Robert Jackson's young family 1920-1930s   |                  |
| 1                     | 8             | George Daniel Jackson (1) graduate of Many High School 1939<br>West Point Cadet (1) 1941   |                  |
| 1                     | 9             | Mary and Robert Jackson and family gatherings (6) 1970s  |                  |
| 1                     | 10            | Beulah Keith Darby - High School graduate<br>Darby, Jeb - baby   |                  |

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|---|----|---|
| 1 | 11 | Collins, Amanda (Simpson)<br>Simpson, Alva and ?<br>Fraser family<br>Simpson, 'Grandpa'   |
| 1 | 12 | Keith, Perry Polk jr.<br>Keith, Mary<br>Keith, Pearl as baby<br>Keith family - D.W. Keith, 2 <sup>nd</sup> wife, Kathyrn Keith, O.W. Keith Jr.<br>Keith, O.W. jr. |
| 1 | 13 | Jackson, Robert* in tax assessor's office<br>Children of George and Mary Jackson: Lena,<br>Kate, Robert*, Daisy, Fred and Norma                                   |
| 1 | 14 | Photographs (3) unknown and undated   |

*Memorabilia and other*

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|---|----|--|
| 1 | 15 | Marriage license (copy) - Mary Lee Keith<br>And Robert B. Jackson February 27, 1921  |
| 1 | 16 | Jackson, George - reading certificate, program,<br>Senior play      1939, 1941   |
| 1 | 17 | Jackson, Mary Keith - reading certificate, program 1938, u.d.  |
| 1 | 18 | Jackson, Keith - report cards, certificate 1940  |
| 1 | 19 | Genealogy charts   |
| 1 | 20 | Newspaper clippings;<br>Mary lee Keith's graduation from Louisiana College      1919<br>Death of Mrs. F.A. Tusten      1926<br>Death of D.W. Keith      1926<br>Death of Beulah Keith Darby      1931<br>Death of Mary Slaughter Keith      1931<br>Death of Perry Keith      1935<br>Death of Mrs. G.L. Jackson      1938<br>Ruby Keith retirement      1949<br>Mary K. Jackson - Easter Star newsclip      1970s |

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|--|----|--|-----------|
|  |    | Death of Mary Lee Keith Jackson  | 1988      |
|  |    | Death of Perry Roy Keith   | 1998      |
|  |    | Wedding of Brenda Carro Jackson  | u.d.      |
|  |    | Death of Robert B. Jackson   | u.d.      |
| 1  | 21 | WWII Ration books  |           |
|  |    | Invoice on Lee Dry Goods letterhead  | 1939      |
|  |    | Note on clarinet for George  | 1940      |
|  |    | Note on Keith Bros. Co.,Inc. Letterhead  | 1940      |
|  |    | Chain letter   |           |
|  |    | Tax receipt  | 1943      |
| <i>Diaries written by Mary Lee Keith (Jackson)</i> |    |  |           |
| 2  | 22 | Diary written by Mary Lee as Senior<br>at Louisiana College  | 1919      |
|  |    | Diary written of married life  | 1921-1922 |
|  |    | Re: activities, presents, visits etc.  |           |
|  |    | Baby Book - George Jackson   | 1924      |
|  |    | Includ. Some photographs   |           |
| 2  | 23 | Diary written by Mary Keith Jackson  | 1937-1938 |
|  |    | February 18, 1937-July 5, 1937   |           |
|  |    | Pregnant with new baby; its arrival; typical sleepless<br>nights; gifts from friends; trouble with servant; mineral<br>sales; loves being home with baby; sister Pearl has not<br>visited; May Day Parade; George's Scout Jamboree in<br>Washington D.C.; contains four pages of George's<br>correspondence from Washington. |           |
|  |    | July 12, 1937-October 6, 1937  |           |
|  |    | Robert goes to American Legion Convention; did not<br>get certificate; family news; made two new dresses; George<br>with fever; new servant Elizabeth; Keith cut leg with ax; Pendleton<br>Ferry Bridge; reading books for reading certificate; Emily and Nell<br>Avery tenants (teachers).                                  |           |

October 10, 1937- December 12, 1937

Visit to Shreveport; lot for new post office; Robert Wright stole money from Sabine Bank; F.C. Nagle organizing a flying school; Huey Long's daughter, Rose, Louisiana Queen (11/10/37); boys shooting fireworks in glass bottles; waiting at Highland Clinic, possible breast trouble; Curtis Wright may have polio.

January 3, 1938- December 27, 1938

Post office to be built on Mr. Knott's lot; servant stealing; Fraser Sanitorium; scouts building bird boxes; ran out of gas; boys and scouting; castor oil for baby; George's birthday (14); patching clothes; turn shirt collars; Willard the Wizard (magician); Keith has bad asthma; pregnant again; George broke knuckle fighting; Austin and Rita Dees have baby boy; Grace Darby has girl; Willie Bevins drunk again; Emery's wife has leukemia; speaks of grandfather in legislature; (p. 339); four boys rooming; Robert not saving, but spends too much; Baby Roberta born September 6, 1938; Mary Pearl hit by a car; problems with servants.

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Diary written by Mary Keith Jackson      1939-1941  
January 1, 1939- April 3, 1939

In-law problems; bought a new Singer sewing machine; trouble with servants; Robert hired Brooks Hildebrand for Assessor's Office; George in quarantine; Caroline Dorman visited Mrs. Knott; Mimp Snell died; Miss Paralee sends George birthday cake because they share the same date; Roberta has malaria.

April 11, 1939- May 7, 1939

Renters still owe one dollar; found turkey egg; Bess and Pete Downey adopted a little girl; Robert Sibley, Tom Pugh bought soil; Joe and Ruth Donna separating.

May 12, 1939- July 23, 1939

Chain letters; screened in front porch; submarine Squalus; lawsuit to get Sally off Pouncy place; French submarine sunk; British submarine Thetis sank; Henry De Latin dropped dead in pool hall; Dr. Smith (president of LSU) arrested; bloody steaks in cow's milk after breeding; karoid, bile tablets and quinine for chest cold.

July 25, 1939-Nov. 5, 1939

Training seven year old negro girl to baby sit babies; servant Lydia Ann arrested for stabbing a man with an ice pick; slapped seven year old; fired Lydia Ann; John Whittington died; renters using too much electricity; renter Bobbie is to marry Carl Olsen the barber at Inn Hotel; babies taken for 'scoring' at State Fair. Jimmie Noe spoke on sound truck; babies got into package of razor blades; churning;

November 7, 1939-December 31, 1939

Roberta (14 months old); Caddo land - 180 acres, 3 lot and houses; T. Ashley Wright at Tech killed himself; Dr. Smith (LSU) got 30 days in prison; sent money to lawyer for Sally Pouncy case; three suicides from LSU scandal; circus in town; Mary Pearl was using chamber pot in front yard; Dr. Dillon's trial postponed; enjoys riding in car; went to see 'Madame Butterfly' performed by the Shreveport Opera Guild at Dodd College in Shreveport (not very good); decorating for Christmas; four traffic lights in town; George got a toy engine that runs on wood alcohol.

January 1, 1940-April 19, 1940

Dorothy Williams married Mr. Morrow; got a cow from Pearl as payment; wearing Robert's and George's clothes..none of my own; Mrs. T.D. Williams is election commissioner and is separated from her new husband; Grant's store in Shreveport selling prints used in making costumes for 'Gone With the Wind' characters; putting 'adult' on church census instead of real age; Robert went hunting, killed 8 birds; caught 5 mice; servant jammed up washing machine; Earl Long and Sam Jones leading the ticket for governor. Jimmie Noe calling himself 'governor'; heard Anna Gray Noe speak; used to

know her at Mansfield College when she and her sister Gladys were two motherless girls under the supervision of Miss North; pipes froze; SNOW! SNOW! SNOW! Renter may be 'wrong kind of girl'.

May 1, 1940 - May 16, 1941

George going to Boys State in Baton Rouge; War declared (p. 867); Tanks, trucks, troops (p.867); George's graduation; Sam Jones (p. 873); chickens increase; someone took \$20 Mary had hidden; Robert has inflamed prostate; State Fair - Better Baby Contest - Mary Pearl made a 96, Roberta made a 91 ½; chart for contest p. 908; PTA carnival; three boarders are oil men; house a wreck (p.926); elected head of band mothers (fundraiser position); selling subscriptions to Holland magazine; servants have gone to Leesville for better pay; sold her interest in store for \$700; Robert been angry a lot; government is going to buy all her DeSoto land.

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Diary written in the 1944 Pointer calendar given to Mary Lee by her son George when he sent Christmas presents to the family.

January 1, 1944-August 31, 1944

Cousin Mollie died from pneumonia; George had a date with a Collier Magazine model in New York; sent money for Desoto taxes; Mary Ellen McNeely and Lt. Saxby married; Mrs. Britt's father died; school cancelled; Mary Pearl and Roberta enjoyed first real snow; many trees and limbs broken; electricity out; started work at the office and learned how to fill out homestead exemption forms; Cornelius Mitchell offering \$60.00 for timber on Frierson place; rented room to Corporal and Mrs. Elston from Washington state; Mrs. Simmons buried; Mary Pearl went home with Carla Fay Green and didn't tell me; working at office; about 2000 soldiers to be located near airport; Nichol's Garage displays pictures of soldiers; George's picture there; Mr. R.L. Clark dropped dead in garden; his son in North Africa; new wash dress made by Mrs. Petty; practiced for Easter musicale; George presented his 'A' pin to Margorie Mackie; sent a picture of her; bought Mary Pearl and Roberta some unrationed shoes; picked four gallons of may haws; Senior play was very good; maneuvers may be here; Keith sent invitations off today; Robert still sick; doctor said it is flu; went to Bonham, Texas to see George; Jack Carmichael was killed; Keith Superintendent of State

Electric Co.; Keith transferred to Houma; put up 29 jars of peaches; George 'washed out' of Air Corps; Mr and Mrs. Elmer Ross (renters) are moving..for the best, their children and mine fuss constantly; Keith missing work because of his asthma.

September 1, 1944-December 31, 1944

Somebody took off in S.M.'s car; Roberta takes entrance test for school; neighbors over for Roberta's birthday; Robert and Dr. Phares went to Shreveport to see a chiropodist; pulled Mary Pearl's third tooth and an upper one; began working at office today; Mr. Chaddick was found dead in his bed at Sabine Hotel; Keith surprise visit; George is enjoying driving water vehicles on Hudson this year; feeling sore throat; Dr. Phares came and painted my throat; doctor said I had strep throat; pulled Mary Pearl's fourth tooth; thrilled with change found under her pillow; Robert and John V. Nash went hunting and killed eight birds; Carro sent a turkey over for Christmas; bought a cedar Christmas tree from Bunny Ramsey for \$1.75; Robert returned tonight with oysters and ducks.

26 Diary from 1970-1971

Trips to California, Denver and Dallas

27 Diary from January 18, 1974-1975

Diary from 1986-1987 - in nursing home

Last entry: "This morning I remembered how for six years I lived in a dormitory as had to leave home at age 14 when I finished the 8<sup>th</sup> grade; and spent six years taking three years of high school and four years of college. And now here I am in a nursing home with older women as companions. Isn't it strange that I should have a similar life in my youth and now in my last days?" (December 25, 1987)