

Gettysburg College
Musselman
Library
special collections

**Guide to the
Yarnell Collection**



**Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections & College Archives**

**Processed by Christopher Culig
June 2007**

MS – 089: Yarnell Collection

(3 boxes, .81 cubic feet)

Inclusive Dates: 1943-1945

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Provenance

Purchased from Charles Apfelbaum Rare Manuscripts & Archives, 2000

Biography

Clyde and Glenn Yarnell were two brothers from Western Pennsylvania who each served in the Pacific theater of World War II. Clyde, the elder brother, enlisted on November 28, 1942. He was trained at Camp Harahan in New Orleans and was transferred to Camp Stoneman in Pittsburg, California before going over seas with the 493rd Quartermaster Depot. He spent most, if not all, of his time overseas on New Caledonia, an island in the Southwest Pacific. Glenn Yarnell, the younger brother, was a private in Company B, 186th Engineer Combat Battalion. He went through basic training at Fort Jackson in South Carolina. He then went to Camp Forrest in Tennessee for mine training. After mine training, he returned to Fort Jackson before being shipped out to the Pacific on the SS Sea Scamp. His battalion arrived at New Guinea on December 15, 1944.

Scope and Content

The Yarnell Collection consists of correspondence received by Orpha Yarnell during World War II. The bulk of the collection is correspondence written by her son Clyde Yarnell during his service with the 493rd Quartermaster Depot. Most of the letters were written from overseas, although there are letters from his training at Camp Harahan and his stay in Camp Stoneman. Most of the remaining letters are written by Glenn Yarnell to his mother, Orpha. These letters, written during his service with the 186th Engineer Combat Battalion, originated from Fort Jackson, Camp Forrest, and New Guinea. The remaining letters are from Orpha's nephew, Clarence Ritenour, and Orpha's "sweetheart" Paul E. Gettemy. Also included in the collection are photographs, two postcards from Clyde to his mother giving his APO address, a card accompanying flowers sent by Clyde to his mother for Mother's Day, and a list of benefits should a soldier go overseas.

Series Description

The collection is three boxes divided into four series.

Series I: Letters Home From Clyde Yarnell to his Mother Orpha Yarnell: March 29, 1943 – January 11, 1945 (119 letters, 2 V-mail)

Clyde's letters home are all mostly about family issues: inquiring about how people are doing at home and his mother's job. He talks very little about his experiences in the Army. This could be at least partly because since he was over-seas, all of his mail passed through a censor. Some of his mail home was censored although usually just a word or line. He does briefly talk about a visit by Eleanor Roosevelt and Bob Hope, who the

troops enjoyed more than the First Lady. He also requests for his mom to send him various things such as moccasins, a watch, and the local newspaper.

Series II: Letters home from Glenn Yarnell to his Mother Orpha Yarnell: March 12, 1944 – December 29, 1944 (49 Letters, 1 V-mail)

Glenn's letters home are much more revelatory about his experiences in Army. He talks about his acquisitions of girlfriends at his numerous posts and an attempt to have a "beer party." Another part of his letters is a description of how he was marked as A.W.O.L and demoted from Private First Class to Private for being off-base without a pass.

Series III: Miscellaneous Letters to Orpha Yarnell: November 5, 1943 – August 10, 1944 (5 Letters)

The two letters about Clarence G. Ritenour talk about his service on New Caledonia and his thoughts on Glenn's troubles. The three letters from Orpha's "sweetheart" Paul Gettemy are mainly about personal issues and have very little to do with the war.

Series IV: Miscellaneous

The photographs included in the collection are of Clyde from his service. They were mailed to his mother for her to develop. Also included are 2 postcards from Clyde to inform his mother of his APO address, a flower card from Mother's Day, a listing of his benefits, and a picture of a native woman.

Box 1

Folder 1-1: Letters home from Clyde Yarnell to his Mother Orpha Yarnell: March 31, 1943 – April 21, 1943

- March 29, 1943 – Camp Harahan, Louisiana
- March 31, 1943 – [Postmark: New Orleans]
- April 6, 1943 – [Postmark: Camp Stoneman, California]
- April 7, 1943 – Camp Stoneman, California
- April 8, 1943 – [Postmark: Camp Stoneman, California]
- April 9, 1943 – [Postmark: Camp Stoneman, California]
- April 12, 1943 – Camp Stoneman, California
- April 13, 1943 – [Postmark: Camp Stoneman, California]
- April 14, 1943 – Camp Stoneman, California
- April 16, 1943 – Camp Stoneman, California
- April 17, 1943 – [Postmark: Camp Stoneman, California] Includes picture of Jean
- April 20, 1943 – [Postmark: Camp Stoneman, California]
- April 21, 1943 – Camp Stoneman, California

Folder 1-2: Letters home from Clyde Yarnell to his Mother Orpha Yarnell: May 15, 1943 – June 29, 1943

- May 15, 1943 – [Southwest Pacific Island]
- May 20, 1943
- May 21, 1943

- May 22, 1943
- May 25, 1943
- May 27, 1943
- May 28, 1943
- May 30, 1943
- May 31, 1943
- June 3, 1943
- June 6, 1943
- June 8, 1943 – V-mail
- June 13, 1943
- June 20, 1943 (2 Letters)
- June 22, 1943
- June 25, 1943
- June 28, 1943
- June 29, 1943 – V-Mail

Folder 1-3: Letters home from Clyde Yarnell to his Mother Orpha Yarnell: July 1, 1943 – July 28, 1943

- July 1, 1943
- July 2, 1943
- July 7, 1943
- July 9, 1943
- July 16, 1943
- July 20, 1943
- July 23, 1943
- July 24, 1943
- July 28, 1943

Folder 1-4: Letters home from Clyde Yarnell to his Mother Orpha Yarnell: August 1, 1943 – September 29, 1943

- August 1, 1943
- August 3, 1943
- August 8, 1943
- August 14, 1943
- August 19, 1943
- August 22, 1943
- August 29, 1943: Brief mention of visit by Eleanor Roosevelt
- August 31, 1943
- September 5, 1943
- September 15, 1943
- September 20, 1943
- September 23, 1943
- September 27, 1943
- September 29, 1943

Folder 1-5: Letters home from Clyde Yarnell to his Mother Orpha Yarnell: October 5, 1943 – December 29, 1943

- October 5, 1943
- October 7, 1943
- October 9, 1943 – South Pacific
- October 17, 1943 – South Pacific
- October 21, 1943 – South Pacific
- October 31, 1943 – South Pacific
- November 5, 1943 – South Pacific
- November 9, 1943 – South Pacific
- November 20, 1943 – South Pacific
- November 28, 1943 – Same Place
- December 4, 1943 – Same Place
- December 7, 1943 – Same Place
- December 18, 1943 – Same Place: Typewritten letter
- December 27, 1943 – Same Place
- December 29, 1943 – Same Place

Box 2

Folder 2-1: Letters home from Clyde Yarnell to his Mother Orpha Yarnell: January 7, 1944 – March 27, 1944

- January 7, 1944 – New Caledonia
- January 15, 1944 – New Caledonia
- January 23, 1944 – New Caledonia: Partially Censured
- January 27, 1944 – New Caledonia
- January 31, 1944 – New Caledonia
- February 3, 1944 – New Caledonia
- February 6, 1944 – New Caledonia
- February 16, 1944 – New Caledonia
- February 20, 1944 – New Caledonia
- March 2, 1944 – New Caledonia
- March 6, 1944 – New Caledonia
- March 16, 1944 – New Caledonia
- March 23, 1944 – New Caledonia
- March 27, 1944 – New Caledonia

Folder 2-2: Letters home from Clyde Yarnell to his Mother Orpha Yarnell: April 7, 1944 – June 25, 1944

- April 7, 1944 – New Caledonia
- April 13, 1944 – New Caledonia
- April 17, 1944 – New Caledonia
- April 27, 1944 – New Caledonia

- May 4, 1944 – New Caledonia
- May 18, 1944 – New Caledonia
- May 23, 1944 – New Caledonia
- June 1, 1944 – New Caledonia
- June 8, 1944 – New Caledonia
- June 13, 1944 – New Caledonia
- June 21, 1944 – New Caledonia
- June 25, 1944 – New Caledonia

Folder 2-3: Letters home from Clyde Yarnell to his Mother Orpha Yarnell: July 3, 1944 – September 22, 1944

- July 3, 1944 – New Caledonia
- July 10, 1944 – New Caledonia
- July 15, 1944 – New Caledonia
- July 19, 1944 – New Caledonia
- July 25, 1944 – New Caledonia
- July 29, 1944 – New Caledonia
- August 5, 1944 – New Caledonia
- August 7, 1944 – New Caledonia
- August 15, 1944 – New Caledonia: Visit by Bob Hope
- August 21, 1944 – New Caledonia: Returned and resent on September 13, 1944
- August 24, 1944 – New Caledonia: Returned and resent on September 14, 1944
- August 27, 1944 – New Caledonia
- September 6, 1944 – New Caledonia
- September 11, 1944 – New Caledonia
- September 22, 1944 – New Caledonia

Folder 2-4: Letters home from Clyde Yarnell to his Mother Orpha Yarnell: October 1, 1944 – January 11, 1945

- October 1, 1944 – New Caledonia
- October 8, 1944 – New Caledonia
- October 16, 1944 – New Caledonia
- October 27, 1944 – New Caledonia
- November 3, 1944 – New Caledonia
- November 17, 1944 – New Caledonia
- November 20, 1944: Envelope only
- November 22, 1944 – New Caledonia
- December 19, 1944 – New Caledonia
- January 11, 1945 – New Caledonia: Typewritten letter

Series II: Letters home from Glenn Yarnell to his Mother Orpha Yarnell: March 12, 1944 – December 29, 1944 (49 Letters, 1 V-mail)

Box 3

Folder 3-1: Letters home from Glenn Yarnell to his Mother Orpha Yarnell: March 13, 1944 – July 10, 1944

- March 12, 1944 – Fort Jackson, South Carolina: With Three Pictures
- April 30, 1944 – [Postmark: Columbia, South Carolina]
- May 5, 1944 – [Postmark: Columbia, South Carolina]
- May 6, 1944 – Fort Jackson, South Carolina
- May 8, 1944 – [Postmark: Columbia, South Carolina]
- May 9, 1944 – Fort Jackson, South Carolina
- May 10, 1944 – Fort Jackson, South Carolina
- May 17, 1944 – Fort Jackson, South Carolina
- May 21, 1944 – Fort Jackson, South Carolina
- May 23, 1944 – [Postmark: Columbia, South Carolina]
- May 28, 1944 – Camp Forrest, Tennessee
- June 1, 1944 – Camp Forrest, Tennessee
- June 10, 1944 – Camp Forrest, Tennessee
- June 19, 1944 – Camp Forrest, Tennessee
- June 20, 1944 – Camp Forrest, Tennessee

Folder 3-2: Letters home from Glenn Yarnell to his Mother Orpha Yarnell: July 10, 1944 – July 31, 1944

- July 9, 1944 – Camp Forrest, Tennessee: About being marked A.W.O.L.
- July 11, 1944 – Camp Forrest, Tennessee
- July 12, 1944 – Camp Forrest, Tennessee
- July 13, 1944 – Camp Forrest, Tennessee
- July 15, 1944 – Camp Forrest, Tennessee
- July 16, 1944 – Camp Forrest, Tennessee
- July 17, 1944 – Camp Forrest, Tennessee
- July 19, 1944 – Camp Forrest, Tennessee
- July 22, 1944 – Camp Forrest, Tennessee
- July 29, 1944 – Fort Jackson, South Carolina
- July 30, 1944 – Fort Jackson, South Carolina
- July 31, 1944 – Fort Jackson, South Carolina

Folder 3-3: Letters home from Glenn Yarnell to his Mother Orpha Yarnell: August 1, 1944 – August 27, 1944

- August 1, 1944 – Fort Jackson, South Carolina
- August 2, 1944 – Fort Jackson, South Carolina
- August 11, 1944 – Fort Jackson, South Carolina
- August 13, 1944 – Fort Jackson, South Carolina
- August 14, 1944 – Fort Jackson, South Carolina
- August 15, 1944 – Fort Jackson, South Carolina
- August 16, 1944 – Fort Jackson, South Carolina
- August 19, 1944 – Fort Jackson, South Carolina

- August 21, 1944 – Fort Jackson, South Carolina
- August 22, 1944 – Fort Jackson, South Carolina
- August 23, 1944 – [Postmark: Columbia, South Carolina]
- August 24, 1944 – [Postmark: Columbia, South Carolina]
- August 25, 1944 – Fort Jackson, South Carolina

Folder 3-4: Letters home from Glenn Yarnell to his Mother Orpha Yarnell: September 8, 1944 – December 20, 1944

- September 7, 1944 – Fort Jackson, South Carolina
- September 8, 1944 – Fort Jackson, South Carolina
- September 9, 1944 – Fort Jackson, South Carolina
- September 19, 1944 – Fort Jackson, South Carolina
- November 8, 1944
- November [10], 1944
- November 11, 1944
- December 17, 1944 – New Guinea
- December 20, 1944 – New Guinea
- December 29, 1944 [Date on Postmark]: V-Mail

Series III: Miscellaneous Letters to Orpha Yarnell: November 5, 1943 – August 10, 1944 (5 Letters)

Folder 3-5: Letters from Clarence G. Ritenour to Orpha Yarnell

- July 17, 1944
- August 10, 1944

Folder 3-6: Letters from Paul E. Gettemy to his “Sweetheart” Orpha Yarnell

- November 5, 1943 – Wilmerding, Pennsylvania
- June 13, 1944 – Greensburg, Pennsylvania
- June 21, 1944 – Greensburg, Pennsylvania

Series IV: Miscellaneous

Folder 3-7: Miscellaneous Pictures, Notes, Notices, etc.

- 3 Pictures and Negatives
- Picture of Girl in Grass Skirt
- 2 Postcards from Clyde giving his APO address
- Card accompanying flowers Clyde sent to his mother for Mother’s Day
- List of Benefits for Glenn Yarnell for if he goes overseas