Guide to the
Bair-Kohler-Berger Family at
339 Carlisle Street Collection

Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections & College Archives

Karen Dupell Drickamer
October 2017
MS – 131: Bair-Kohler-Berger Family at 339 Carlisle Street Collection  
(11 boxes, 3.5 cubic feet)  
Inclusive Dates: 1893-1969

Processed by: Karen Dupell Drickamer  
October 2017

Provenance: Gift of Marianne Larkin, ’71

History:  
The house at 339 Carlisle Street was built by Colonel Charles H. Buehler (1825-1896), a prominent member of the community, a member of the Class of 1844, and a trustee of Pennsylvania College. The house was built in the Italianate style and by 1891 it had been altered to reflect the Queen Anne style.

In 1896, the house was purchased by J. Emory Bair (1845-1914), a director of the Gettysburg National Bank. A veteran of the Civil War, Bair was very involved in the community and connected with the Gettysburg Knitting Company, the Gettysburg Canning Company, and the Land Improvement Company. Bair served as a trustee of the Pennsylvania College from 1896 to 1909. Bair and his wife, Mary Catharine Kohler Bair (1844-1834) raised their niece, Mary Catharine Kohler (1891-1971), a member of the Class of 1909, who married Clyde D. Berger (1890-1959), a Lieutenant in the Tank Corps at Camp Colt, Gettysburg. Mary Catharine Kohler Bair died in 1934 and Clyde and Mary Catharine Berger raised their four children in the house (their sons, Jesse, John, and Joseph all served in WWII). Their daughter, Mary Catharine, attended and graduated from Penn State University during WWII. She returned to Gettysburg where she and Bertram L. Larkin, son of Gettysburg College Professor George R. Larkin and Anna Larkin, were married on December 19, 1947, at a ceremony in the Carlisle Street Home. Bert and Mary Catharine Larkin resided at the home, during which time their daughter, Marianne Larkin, was born in March of 1949 and Bert graduated from Gettysburg College under the GI Bill in September of 1949.

The Alpha Theta Chi fraternity signed a three year lease for the house in 1951 from Clyde and Mary Berger. The Alpha Theta Chi became the Delta Omicron chapter of the Theta Chi fraternity on March 1, 1958, and the Alumni Association for the Delta Omicron Chapter purchased the house and property on December 1, 1958 from the Bergers for $26,800.

Gettysburg College purchased the house and property in May 2010 and renovated it in 2013 to house both the Economics and the African American Studies departments.

The materials in this collection were originally collected and preserved by Joseph Berger, and given to Special Collections by his niece, Marianne Larkin, ’71, following his death.
Scope and Content Notes:
The collection contains documents, correspondence, photographs, newspapers, artifacts, and ephemera, documenting the lives of the Bair, Kohler, and Berger families who lived at 339 Carlisle Street, as well as information about Judge David Wills’ family (business partners and friends of the Bair/Kohlers) as well as materials on Katalysine Springs and the Springs Hotel of Gettysburg.

Series Description:
The collection is arranged chronologically by subject and genre. **Series I** includes a history of the Gettysburg National Bank with a biography of J. Emory Bair and materials of his niece, Mary Catharine Kohler. **Series II** contains records, correspondence, newspapers, and documents, of Clyde Berger’s service with the Tank Corps in WWI at Camp Colt, Gettysburg, and in Europe; his involvement with the Tank Corp veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars as well as local organizations; and information about his three sons who fought in WWII. **Series III** contains ephemera collected by Joseph Berger while serving in Europe during and after WWII. **Series IV** contains documents and ephemera about the Springs Hotel and Katalysine Springs. **Series V** includes history about the David Wills family and their house on the square. **Series VI** contains photographs, prints, maps, and artifacts from the previous five series in several sizes over five boxes.

Box/Folder

Box 1

1/1 Inventory of collection and research notes

Series I: Bair/Kohler


1/4 Composition book of Mary Catharine Kohler, 1908

1/5 Card to Mrs. Emma Kohler, Philadelphia, 22 Feb 1910

1/6 1910 US Census. Mary Catharine Kohler Berger

1/7 Daily Pass to Camp Tobyhanna, 303rd Tank Center for Miss Mary Kohler 11 August 1918.

Series II: Clyde Berger
1/9 Clyde D. Berger’s Officer’s Record Book
1/10 Clyde D. Berger’s Officer’s Identity Card American Expeditionary Forces
1/11 Army Memorandum to [Officer] Candidates, 11 Aug 1917. Camp Lee, VA
1/12 Clyde Berger’s WWI Orders and other paperwork, 1917-1919
1/13 Records, 351st Company Tank Corps, Camp Colt, 1918
1/14 Letter to Lt. Clyde Berger, Brennes, France, New Year’s Day, 1919,
   From the Boys of Co. A. ALS, 1 p.
1/15 WWI Soldier’s questions on subjects including military hygiene, military courtesy,
   Military law, etc.
1/16 WWI song lyrics, n.d.
1/17 Berger’s memoranda books (2), 1918-1919
1/18 351st Company Mess Ledger, 1918

Box 2

Series II: Clyde Berger, cont.
2/1 Newspapers: Trench and Camp, various issues, 1918-
2/2 Clyde D. Berger’s Officers Reserve Corp paperwork, 1918, 1920
2/3 Inter Allied Games, Paris, 1919. Postcard and Program
2/4 Menu, Officers’ Mess in Bourg, France, n.d.
2/5 Newspaper: New York Herald, 8 Nov 1918, European Edition – Paris
2/7 Newspaper: New York Herald, 5 Feb 1919, European Edition - Paris
2/8 Newspaper: Stars and Stripes, 13 June 1919
2/9 Newspaper: New York Herald, 7, 15, 27, June 1919
2/10 The Chicago Tribune, 6 June 1919, 26 June 1919
2/11 WWI era postal cards of Europe
2/12 Situation Report, 79th Division, Pennsylvania, 23 January 1922

Box 3

Series II: Clyde Berger, cont.
3/1 “The Five of Hearts at Exermont” by Arthur Snyder. TM, 8 pp. and
two photographs
3/2 Blaw-Knox News. Blaw-Knox Special Ordinance Division Newsletter
   featuring the Berger Family. Vol. 2, No. 1, July 1945
3/3 Program, 23rd Annual Encampment, Ladies’ Auxiliary Veterans of Foreign
3/4 Veterans of foreign Wars, letter, booklet, newspaper articles
3/5 World War Tank Corps Association information
3/7 1956 Tank Corps Reunion, Gettysburg, Pa.
National Commander, World War Tank Corps, 13 October 1956. TLS, 1p

3/9 Invoice from lawyer for work on the final sale of 339 Carlisle Street house by Clyde and Mary Berger to the Alumni Association of Delta Omicron Chapter of the Theta Chi Fraternity, 9 December 1958.

3/10 Obituary: Clyde Berger, Gettysburg Times, 7 July 1959


Box 4

Series III: Joseph Berger


4/2 Schematics and circuit drawings


4/4 Ephemera: Germany, 1945-1946

4/5 London ARC Light. Vol.3 No.14, 6 January 1945

4/6 War Week, Saturday, 13 January 1945

4/7 Ephemera: WWII U.S. Army


Box 5

Series III: Joseph Berger, cont.

5/1 Ephemera, postal cards, prayer books, England, 1944-45

5/2 Postal cards: Scotland, 1945

5/3 Postal Cards, map, photographs - Stratford-on-Avon

5/4 Ephemera: Denmark, 1945

5/5 Ephemera: Belgium, 1945

5/6 Engraving: Boerentoren, Antwerp, Belgium, 1932

5/7 Ephemera: Paris, 1945


Box 6

Series IV: Katalysine Springs

6/1 Gettysburg Springs Hotel 1881 advertisement - papers of J. Emory Bair
6/2 “Gettysburg Katalysine Water,” 1993. 4 advertising booklets
6/3 Katalysine Springs advertising ephemera: booklets, leaflets and flyers
6/4 Katalysine Springs, ledger of visitors 28 July 1935 – 11 Sept 1940
6/5 Katalysine Springs, permits, lab analysis, 1935-1943
6/6 Correspondence – Katalysine Springs land (1947-1953) and Sale Agreement to Gettysburg Development Corp., 1947.
6/7 Katalysine Springs news articles and ads, 1936 and 1937
6/9 Historical information on Katalysine Springs and the Springs Hotel from www.gettysburgdaily.com

Series V: David Wills Family

6/10 David Wills family tree

6/12 Correspondence: David Wills, Edward Everett, Henry Ward Beacher, 1863-1864. 4 ALS, 12 pp.
6/14 Photographs: Judge David Wills and Catharine Jane Smyser Wills, Gettysburg, Pa., ca. 1860. Prints from digital images from daguerreotypes.
6/16 Photograph: Wills family gathering – photocopy
6/17 Postal cards: Ireland, Paris, and Dresden. Collected by Judge and Mrs. Wills on their 1884 European trip.

Box 7
Series VI: Photographs, memorabilia

7/1 Photograph: Carte de visite of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Bechtel and son, ca. 1870. (grandparents and father of George Sprenkle Bechtel who married Judge David Wills’s granddaughter, Jane Wills Quimby Preston.
7/2 Photograph: Gettysburg National Bank, 1896
7/3 Print: Pennsylvania College Campus, 1897
Photograph: Emma Jane Jones Kohler (1863-1932) and Coachman, ca. 1900

Photograph: Mary Catharine Kohler (1891-1971) and Mary Catharine Kohler Bair (1844-1934), with coachman in Devil’s Den, ca. 1905. (copy in folder, original in Conservation)

Photograph: Paul B. S. Rice, Class of 1911, 3 photographs

Photograph: Lt. Clyde D. Berger portrait in uniform, ca. 1919

Photograph: Unknown Officer (Lt.), ca. 1919

Photograph: Allied Games in Paris, July 1919. Clyde Berger after high dive competition.

Photograph: Parade with Col. Patton’s Tank Corps, Washington, D.C., 1919

Photographs: Tank Corps soldiers, n.d.

Photographs: French Riviera, WWI Era (2)

Photograph: Pikesville, Maryland Boy Scout Troop #353 camping in Gettysburg, 5 August 1935. Lt. Clyde Berger, District Commissioner, Boy Scouts of America and members of the Flying Eagle Patrol (and all three Berger boys).

Photographs: Katalysine Springs, 1934-1942 (7)

Photographs: Tank Corps, Homecoming Reunion, 1954 Tree Dedication (6)

Photograph: World War Tank Corps Reunion, Gettysburg, PA

Photograph: Large dinner event. Clyde Berger in center. n.d.


Artifacts: Medals: Iron Cross Second Class, 1914
Disabled American Veterans Commander; Society of American Military Engineers

Ephemera: World Wars Tank Corps card, 2nd Lt. Clyde D. Berger’s Dog Tags


Artifact: Clyde Berger’s Tank Corps Insignia Tie

Ephemera: Card: Vote for Clyde D. Berger, 1945;
Ticket: United States Railroad Administration, Pullman Car lines, Chicago to Denver

Box 8

Series VI: Photographs, Memorabilia, cont.
Small photographs and negatives of 339 Carlisle Street, its occupants, WWI events, local parades and events. Most of the negatives have been digitized – please request access from archivist.
**Box 9**  
**Series VI: Photographs, Memorabilia, cont.**


**Box 10**  
**Series VI: Photographs, Memorabilia, cont. (Oversize)**

**Artifact:** Flag – WWII three star service flag  
**Artifact:** Tin, Bauer and Black Handi-tape for cuts and blisters, ca. 1935  
**Daguerreotype:** Judge David Wills House on the Square, Gettysburg  
**Photograph:** Kohler family in Devil’s Den, 1890s.  
**Photograph:** Camp Colt, Gettysburg, 1918. Capt. D. D. Eisenhower front center  
**Photograph:** 39th Annual Dinner, Tank Corps Post No. 715 at Famous Kitchen, 27 April 1957.  
**Photograph:** Community Theater presentation (Mary Catharine Kohler Berger Seated 7th from left).  
**Photograph:** Monaco, 1919  
**Photograph:** Class of 1909 Sub-freshmen, with Mary Catharine Kohler  
**Photograph:** Springs Hotel, opened July 1 1869, Destroyed by fire 17 December 1917.  
**Photograph:** Three tinted photographs of Paris ca. 1919  
**Engraving:** Judge David Wills (3)  
**Newspaper:** Bayonet. Feb. 8, 23 and March 15, 1918 issues.  
**Map:** Washington D.C., 1932, topographical  
**Bible** Bair, Kohler, Berger family Bible ca. 1868 [partial text, no covers or spine, pages with marriages, births, and deaths partly filled in, transferred from MS-233 in December 2018]

**Box 11**  
**Map:** Gettysburg, ca 1884-1887. On cloth.

Removed from collection from conservation and eventual housing in Oversive Manuscript flat file drawer:  
Map of Gettysburg Borough, 1841  
1919 Map of France (2)

A family photograph album of the family was digitized and the original was returned to the donor. For access to digital files, please see an archivist.
For more information about on subjects covered in this collection:

- Subject Vertical File: Gettysburg Springs Hotel/Katalysine Springs.
- Photograph Vertical File: Katalysine Springs Hotel Stereoview
- Oversized Photographs: Student Groups, Box 4: Kohler family at dances
- Pamphlet Collection: Katalysine Springs brochures (see MUSCAT).
- World War I: LibGuide @ http://libguides.gettysburg.edu/content.php?pid=12378
- Beyond the Run: The Emanuel Harmon Farm at Gettysburg by Andrew I. Dalton  
- In addition, Mr. Joseph Berger gave to the following institutions, materials on the Bair, Kohler families, the Carlisle Street house, and the Wills family: the Adams County Historical Society, the Hanover Historical Society, and the Harrisburg Civil War Museum.