

Gettysburg College
Musselman
Library
special collections

Guide to MS-221:

Cpt. Robert L. Morris, Class of 1966, Papers



Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections and College Archives

Jeffrey Lauck, Class of 2018, Fortenbaugh Intern
April 2018

MS-221: Capt. Robert L. Morris, Class of 1966, Papers

Processed by Jeffrey Lauck, Class of 2018, Fortenbaugh Intern
April 2018

Size

1 boxes, 0.33 cubic feet

Location

Special Collections

Dates

Inclusive: 1950-1972

Bulk: 1965-1972

Provenance

Items collected by Susan Hill '67 and donated to Special Collections in September 2017 along with items in MS-222 Lt. John M. Colestock '65 Papers.

Biographical Note and Historical Note

Susan Hill (née Colestock) '67 was the wife of Cpt. Robert L. Morris '66 and the sister of Lt. John M. Colestock '65, both of whom died in service during the Vietnam War. Robert L. Morris was born on March 26, 1944 and grew up in Annville, PA. While at Gettysburg, he served as President of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, was a member of the Arnold Air Society, Varsity G-Club, the Physical Education Majors Club, and played varsity basketball and baseball. He graduated in 1966 after majoring in physical education and minoring in biology and chemistry. After graduating, he married Susan C. Colestock '67 and joined the United States Air Force. In March of 1972, Cpt. Morris was killed during a plane crash over northeast Spain. Another alumnus, Lt. Daniel Whipps '69, was also killed in the crash. Cpt. Morris was 27 years old when he died and was buried in Gettysburg National Cemetery. Morris was one of the over 58,000 U.S. servicemen who died during the Vietnam War and one of the thirteen Gettysburg College alumni who died in service during the War.

Scope and Content Note

The collection includes photographs, newspaper clippings, and other documents related to the life of Robert L. Morris '66. Series 1 includes a scrapbook containing newspaper clippings and photographs from throughout Morris's life, beginning with his childhood. Series 2 includes items from his life before joining the U.S. Air Force, specifically items related to his time as a student at Gettysburg College. Series 3 features photographs, awards, and other documents from his service in the U.S. Air Force through his death in 1972. Potential research interests lie in Gettysburg College's Vietnam War connections, the personal history of Cpt. Robert L. Morris, and photographs from the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War.

Series Description

This collection is divided into three series. **Series I:** Scrapbook, **Series II:** Civilian Life, **Series III:** Military Service.

Series I consists of a scrapbook kept of Morris's life beginning in childhood.

Series II consists of items collected during Morris's life before joining the U.S. Air Force.

Series III consists of items from his time in the U.S. Air Force through his death in 1972.

Box List

Box 1

Series 1: Scrapbook

- 1-0 Finding Aid and Biographical Information
- 1-1A Scrapbook (page)
 - Pages from a scrapbook documenting Morris's life
- 1-1B Scrapbook (cover)
 - Cover of scrapbook

Series 2: Civilian Life

- 1-2 Items from Time as Gettysburg Student
 - TKE Caricature "Little Dribbler"
 - Photograph of Morris winning Stan Musial Youth Hall of Fame Award
 - Gettysburg College graduation photograph

Series 3: Military Service

- 1-3 Introduction into Air Force
 - USAF Commissioning Certificate
 - USAF ID card
 - "Why I Want to be a Pilot"
- 1-4 Photos from Service in U.S. Air Force
 - Photograph of Morris flying a T-27 in formation during training at Craig Air Force Base in Selma, Alabama
 - "Final Flight Hose Down" photograph from Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base in Thailand
 - Photograph with 4-D at Eglin Air Force Base in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, before leaving for Korat base
- 1-5 Awards Earned During Service in U.S. Air Force
 - Distinguished Flying Cross Citation, June 20, 1969
 - Photograph of Morris receiving Distinguished Flying Cross
 - Air Medal Certificate – First Oak Leaf Cluster
 - Air Medal Certificate – Second Oak Leaf Cluster
- 1-6 Items Related to Death
 - Honorable Service Certificate and Letter in leather folder, March 29, 1972
 - Funeral Service Bulletin

— 3 Newspaper clippings (and photocopies thereof) on death and funeral

Related Collections

MS-036: Radical Pamphlets, 1965 - 1975

MS- 044: Stephen H. Warner Collection

MS- 051: The Letters of Richard A. Moore to his Wife during the Vietnam War

MS- 069: The Papers of John W. Vannorsdall

MS-222: Lt. John M. Colestock '65 Papers

Contact Information

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