

World War II

Finding Aid

Table of Contents

Summary.....	2
Brief History of World War II	2
Scope and Content.....	3
Arrangement Note.....	3
Container List.....	4-14

Summary of Collection

This finding aid contains information on all of the items within the Montclair History Center's collection that pertain to WWII. It includes an assortment of material from letters to interviews to photos to books. Through the many types of documents in these files, we are able understand life in Montclair during WWII and the experiences of people from Montclair overseas during WWII.

Creator(s):

Miscellaneous Montclair Residents, past and present

Dates:

September 1944 - 2012

Location:

Clark House, 3rd Floor (upstairs Library)

Quantity:

3 boxes, 5 tables, 1 object, 1 book

Brief History of World War II

The reasons behind the fighting of the second World War are complicated and difficult to summarize briefly, but the most simple explanation is that Nazi Germany's attempts to take over much of the rest of Europe and the Nazi's genocide of European Jews lead to war between Germany and its allies and those who wanted to stop them. Although World War II officially began in 1939, the United States did not become officially involved until 1941, after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. Both volunteer and drafted soldiers were sent to the European theater and the Pacific theater to fight as a part of the Allied Powers, which consisted of the U.S., the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union, against the Axis Powers: Germany, Italy, and Japan. The war raged on until 1945, with the official surrender of Germany to the Allied powers occurring on May 7th. However, Japan did not officially surrender until September 2nd, 1945, following the use of atomic bombs by the United States at both Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Scope and Content

The types of documents in this collection include (but are not limited to) letters, newspaper articles, photographs, books, and taped interviews. The documents pertain to World War II, specifically life in Montclair during that time, and the experiences of people from Montclair who served in both the European and Pacific theaters.

Arrangement Note

The files in this collection are made up of several different collections including, but not limited to, the Stevenson Collection, the WWII Nurses Oral History Collection, and the Vertical Files Collection. This finding aid was made to help researchers interested in Montclair and its citizens during WWII find all the resources in our collection related to the topic. The contents are listed by collection (if relevant) and/or its location within the overall Montclair History Center Archival Collection.

Container List

This is an inventory of the collection. It includes box number/name, the folder title, the folder contents, and the time period when applicable.

Fred Williamson Collection

B. July 16, 1923; D. April 7, 2009.

He and his family lived in Upper Montclair, New Jersey. In 1943 while in the middle of his sophomore year of college at Dartmouth, Williamson enlisted in the United States Army and was deployed to Europe in September of 1944 with the 10 th Armored Division of General George Patton's Tenth Army. He would see action in across continental Western Europe from France to Germany and participate in the Battle of the Bulge, where he received the Bronze Star for his bravery. He was discharged as a Staff Sergeant after the end of the war in late 1945.

Time Period	Folder Title	Content
World War II	Folder no. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Newspaper article on Frederick Williamson from the Greenwich Time (April 10-11, 2009)• Letters from Fred Williamson to his parents in Upper Montclair, Dates: September to October 1944 Location: France• Letters from Fred Williamson to his parents. Dates: December 1944, Location: Germany• Christmas and New Year's card from Fred Williamson to his parents, December 10, 1944
	Folder no. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Letters from Fred Williamson to his parents, Dates: December 1944, Location: Germany• Letter from Fred Williamson to his parents, Date: December 22, 1944, Location: Luxembourg• Letters from Fred Williamson to his parents, Dates: January 1945, Location: Metz France or enroute there
	Folder no. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Letters from Fred Williamson to his parents, Dates: January to February 1945, Location: enroute to France and in France• Letters from Fred Williamson to his parents, Dates: February to March 1945, Location: Germany
	Folder no. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Letters from Fred Williamson to his parents, Dates: April to June 1945, Location: Germany

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter from Frederick R. Williamson Sr. to his son Fred Williamson Jr., Date: June 8, 1945; Location: Upper Montclair
	Folder no. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter from Fred Williamson to his mother, Date June 25, 1945; Location: Germany • Letters from Fred Williamson to his parents, Dates: June 1945, Locations: Germany, and France • Letters from Fred (Sr.) and Mary Williamson to Fred Williamson Jr., Dates: June to July 1945 • Private First Class Elliot Greenberg to Fred Williamson Jr., Date: July 11, 1945 • Fred Williamson to his parents, October 10, 1945 (envelope dated October 11). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contents include Fred updating his parents on his group setup, that he's enjoying his time with them, and he's eating and sleeping well. He concludes by telling his parents that he should be discharged by the end of the year since he has accumulated enough points to be discharged by then.
Post-war period	Folder no. 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter from Fred Williamson to his wife Susie, Date February 6 (exact year unknown, most likely 1956), Location: Belgium • Colored photograph of two men and their armored personnel carrier, most likely early 1950s from the model of the APC.. • Memo written by Susan Williamson, most likely 1956, Location: Italy • Letter from Fred Williamson to his parents, Date: 1944 prior to Fred's deployment, Location: United States • Letters from Fred Williamson to Susan Williamson, Dates: April 1956, Locations: Honolulu, Hawaii; Wake Island; Japan; Los Angeles • Pamphlet for the Ori-Dono Textile Gallery. • Receipt for a phone call made by Fred Williamson, dated April 22, 1956. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The phone call was made from Hotel New Osaka, with the total charge being 6,480 yen. • Receipts for an overseas call made by Fred Williamson,, Dates: April 1956 • Receipt from Tanakaya Ware & Doll, dated April 22, 1956. • Roger E. Ritter to Leo Martinuzzi, Date: May 9, 1956, Location: Most likely sent from Osaka, Japan

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Postcard from Kyoto, Japan showcasing the gate of the Ori-Dono Textile factory, undated. ● Roger E. Ritter to Fred Williamson, Date: April 25, 1956, Location: Osaka, Japan. “Aunt Florrie” (Fred’s Aunt) to Mary Williamson (Fred’s mother), Date: December 14, 1965, Location: Jersey City ● Wedding invitation from Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Reece Loucks (Susan’s parents) to celebrate the marriage between Fred Williamson and Susan Ellen Loucks. The wedding will take place on Saturday, June 25, 1949 at 11 AM in Winnetka, Illinois. ● Mass Booklet used for the Williamson marriage. Date: June 25, 1949, Location: SS Faith, Hope, and Charity Church in Winnetka, Illinois. ● Photograph of a male child wearing a Yale t-shirt. He is presumably related to Fred Williamson or his Fred himself as a boy. ● Lock of dirty blonde hair, presumably belonging to Fred or Susan Williamson, as it was included in a letter addressed to her. ● A card with the name Mrs. Fred R. Williamson. ● A tiny pendant with the image of Jesus on it. “For You Baby” has been written on the front. ● Cards from Fred Williamson to Susan Williamson, undated ● Mother’s Day card, The inside and outside of the card have not been written on, undated ● Letter from Fred, most likely written as a memo for someone in his house. ● Mother’s Day card from the Williamsons’ son Mike to his parents. ● Mother’s Day card presumably from Fred Williamson ● A card from a man named Robert to his mother for Mother’s Day (presumably one of the Williamson’s children). ● Postcard depicting the northern skyline view from the Empire State Building. No writing on the front or back. ● A Mother’s Day card depicting three kittens on the outside. No writing present on the card. ● A postcard featuring “La Madonna della seggiola” by Italian painter Raphael. ● An invitation sent to the Williamsons from Susan’s mother. ● A card sent to wish the reader a happy holiday throughout the New Year.
--	--	---

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Mother’s Day card simply addressed to “My Mama.” • A Mother’s Day card from Mark Williamson to Susan Williamson. • Letters from Robert Williamson to his parents, Fred and Susan Williamson, letters undated, Location: Camp Hazen, Connecticut. • Robert Williamson to his parents, letter undated, Location: Camp Hazen, Connecticut. Robert Williamson to his parents, letter undated. • Fred Williamson to Robert Williamson, letter undated, Location: Old Greenwich, CT.
--	--	--

Montclair Women in WWII

In 1997, the stories of the women here in Montclair during WWII were captured. This collection contains the original audio from those interviews along with additional information on the women.

Time Period	Folder Title	Content
World War II	Montclair Women in WWII Field Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documents containing information about interviews conducted in 1997 for the purpose of creating an oral history of Montclair Women’s experiences during WWII; and information on those interviewed
	N/A (inside box)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women of WWII DVDs, Part 1 and 2 • Tapes of interviews with Anne DiSalvo Henderson, Hortense Felt, Beatrice C. Evans, Nancy Knoerzer, Helen M. Strauss, and Anise T. Myers about their experiences during WWII

Stevenson Collection

Milivoy Stanoyevich married Beatrice Stevenson in 1918 and had Nikolai in 1919. They lived at 110 Midland Ave, Montclair. During World War II, Nikolai changed his name from Stanoyevich to Stevenson and fought in the Pacific Theater. Later on in life, Nikolai would give lectures about the war and his experiences.

Box #	Folder Title	Content
1	Nikolai Stevenson: WWII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • typed speech, intro by unknown person and body by Nikolai at at unknown Book Club, 4/22/1988

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● certificate, Guadalcanal-Solomon Islands War Memorial Foundation, Charter Membership Certificate, 2/1/1991 ● poem, "From Tenaru to Peleliu," by Nikolai, July 1994 ● original newspaper and photocopy, "Veterans recollect Pearl Harbor-and war it spurred," The Times, 12/7/2010 ● copy, "Plainsboro resident and WWII veteran, 93, will be honored for his service in the fight for Guadalcanal," n.p., 8/5/2012 ● newspaper, "On the 70th anniversary of key World War II battle, Marine's memory of a dark night is bright as ever," The Times, 8/5/2012 ● copy, "Heroes Recalled: Seventy years after Guadalcanal, marines reunite," The Trentonian, 8/13/2012 ● Letters to Nikolai in 1941 when he was in training for U.S. Marine Corps (before he went abroad)
2	Photographs: Nikolai Stevenson: WWII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● prints and negatives of Nikolai in uniform, 1943 ● photograph of group of men in uniform, on outside steps of building. Nikolai is on left side, five rows down from top ● photograph of men in uniform walking down a dock ● photograph of Nikolai at Banquet, 1st Marine Division Reunion, 1952 ● five photographs of Nikolai (and Shirley) at an event. Nikolai is either sitting or standing next to man in white uniform in all the photographs ● print of Nikolai in uniform, smiling, looking left, 05/10/1943. Print was made at Adams Studio, Wilmington, N.C.
4	Cassettes/ Video Tapes/CDs	<p>Video Tapes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● "Lost Fleet of Guadalcanal" ● "The Marines at Tarawa, to the Shores of Iwo Jima" <p>Cassettes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● "Nikolai Stevenson, Guadalcanal: The Turning Point" 2001 ● "Pelelieu-history" ● "Nick's Old Guard Talk on Guadalcanal" 2001 ● "Guadalcanal, Peleliu, Gettysburg, New York" "Sugar, the Railroad (White)" ● "history of Pelelieu, official"

10	Oversized Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Copy of MHQ: The Quarterly Journal of Military History, Vol. 11, No. 2, Winter 1999, with article “Personal Perspectives on Peleliu” by Matthew Stevenson
11	Montclair: Nikolai Stevenson, WWII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Various stories about Nikolai Stevenson’s time in the Marines during WWII ● List of members of Company C, First Battalion, First Marines (Stevenson’s unit), Date: August 1942 ● Letters and emails to and from Stevenson regarding his experience in WWII, many are from or to members of Stevensons’s Battalion, Date Range: 2000 to 2012 ● Photo from 1997, most likely of Stevenson and a fellow Marine ● Letters from Nikolai’s son, Matthew about the history of the battle of Guadalcanal ● Letter from Matthew to Gerry Rogers and a copy of a dedication to her late husband Jim in Matthew’s book: <i>Letters of Transit</i> ● Photo of “Mrs. Sheir and a couple of Stevensons” and accompanying letter ● Letters about Matthew’s book, <i>Letters in Transit</i> ● Newspaper articles about Nikolai’s service, Dates: 2010 and 2012 ● Photo from C-1-1 Marine WWII Reunion
11	Montclair WWII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Letters from Private C.E. Phreaner to Mr. and Mrs. David Gray of Montclair, Dates: May 1943, Locations: Fort Dix; Hartford, CT ● Letters from an “H,” wife of an officer at Camp Lee in VA, to Shirley Gray, Dates: March - May 1945, Location: Camp Lee ● Articles about victory at Guadalcanal ● Letter to Brig-General Oscar Cauldwell stationed in San Clemente, CA, most likely from from a fellow officer, Date: May 5th, 1945; Location: New York City ● Articles about battle of Peleliu ● Marine Family Newsletter, Volume 7, Issue 3, Date: July 4th, 2004 ● Article about Marine Jim Wagner’s 65th wedding anniversary celebration, Date: January 2009 ● Information page on Lt Colonel Jim Wagner ● Pamphlet for 1st Marine Division 17th Annual Reunion, Date: August 8th, 1964, Location: New York City ● Copy of <i>Brothers in Battle: One Marine’s Account of War in the Pacific</i>, by Richard Bruce Watkins, Captain USMCR ● The New Yorker article about FDR’s inauguration, unknown date and author

11	Nikolai Stevenson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Newark Star-Ledger article on Nazi surrender, Date: May 3rd, 1945 ● Letter from Director of Marine Reserve concerning Individual Military Record Cards ● Nikolai Stevenson's Honorable Discharge Certificate ● Certificate appointing Stevenson a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserve, Date: February 6th, 1941 <p>Folder Labeled April 21 - September 28, 1946, Nikolai S. Stevenson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Photo of Stevenson in uniform ● Notices for relief from active duty, Dates: May 21, 1946 and June 12, 1946 ● Notices of change of station, Dates: April 22, May 1 and 10, 1946 ● Notice of physical examination prior to relief from active duty, Date: June 3, 1946 ● Letter from Stevenson to The Quartermaster General of the Marine Corps regarding Field Equipment, Date: June 12, 1945 ● Information on Marine Corps Rehabilitation Officers and offices ● Notice dispossessing Stevenson of public quarters ● Embarkment Roster for ship from Japan, Date: April 25, 1946 ● Letter ordering Stevenson to travel to Kumamoto, Kyushu, Date: April 21, 1946 ● Order assigning Stevenson to the West Coast Reclassification and Redistribution Center, Date: May 9, 1946 ● Report by Stevenson's commanding officer W.J. Richter regarding Stevenson's duties on board the U.S.S. Bollinger from April 25 to May 9, 1946, Date: May 9, 1946 <p>Folder Labeled Major Stevenson (Personal File)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Orders sending Stevenson overseas, Date: September 4, 1945 ● Information on Stevenson changing his name, Dates: November 1940 - January 1941, Location: New York City ● Letters to and from Stevenson during his service, Dates: February - August 1945, Location: Camp Joseph H. Pendleton, CA
11	Peleliu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Letters from Matthew Stevenson concerning the Battle of Peleliu to his father's old company members ● Responses to Matthew's letters concerning members of the C-1-1's memories of the Battle of Peleliu

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter from Matthew to his parents about his trip to Peleliu, Date, March 17, 1997 • Matthew's writings on Captain Robert B. Folwer's death during the Battle of Peleliu • Copy of "Peleliu" • Copy of William C. Hubbard's paper "The Forgotten Battle of World War II" • Copy of Matthew's work "My Berlin Diary"
11	USMC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of "History of First Battalion, First Marines," Date: June 7, 1944 • Copy of "What's in a Name and Why We Should remember: Peleliu and the Men of 1-1-1 HQ Company - Communication Platoon," by Dr. Edward C. Papenfuse, Jr • Copies of notices awarding Nikolai Stevenson the Silver Star Medal, Date: March 1943 <p>Pink Folder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lists of names and addresses of C-1-1, Dates: October 20, 1998; November 2, 1999; October 1999; November 11, 2000; October 1, 2001; OCTOBER 16, 2003 • Letters about the 10th reunion of C-1-1, Dates: November 1999 • Article: "In Memory of PFC Oscar Grover, Jr and C-1-1," Date: December 2001 • In Memoriam for Oscar J. Grover, Jr. • Obituary for Frank D'Errico, Date: April 25, 2002 • Letter from Nikolai Stevenson about 12th reunion C-1-1, Date October 15, 2001 • In Memoriams for members of C-1-1, Dates: undated and October 1993 • List of names and addresses of C-1-1, undated <p>Peleliu Folder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of "Nimitz and Peleliu: September 1944" by Colonel Joesph H. Alexander, Date: 1998 • Copy of "Life in a Conquered Land," unknown author and date • Copy of "Bloody Beaches: The Marines At Peleliu" by Brigadier General Gordon D. Gayle, sent to Nikolai Stevenson by Everett Pope, another member of C-1-1, • Copy of "Peleliu" by Nikolai Stevenson • Copy of "The Truth About Peleliu" by Colonel Jon T. Hoffman, Date: 2002 <p>Citations WWII Originals Folder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citation awarding Nikolai Stevenson the Silver Star Medal

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citation awarding Nikolai Stevenson the Bronze Star Medal • “Marines in Review” pamphlet, undated • Photograph labeled “Official Marine Corps Photograph, Headquarters, 1st Marine Corps Reserve and Recruitment District,” Taken by: Sgt E. F. Looney • letter to Nikolai Stevenson from General A.A. Vandegrift of the Marine Corps, Date: August 15,1946
11	Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter to Mathew Stevenson from Andrew Lubar concerning chapters of a book their father’s were writing, attached is a copy of chapters of said book “Journey by Night” • Copy of “Cape Gloucester: The Green Inferno” by Bernard C. Nalty, Date: 1994 • “HBO Presents Guadalcanal” DVD • “USMC WWII: Assorted Information on the Marines in WWII” CD • “Dear Mother’ <i>A Marine Writes Home</i>, A Collection of Letters Sent Home during WWII by Lt. Robert. O White, USMC” CD • “Lt Col. James A. Wagner” CD, Date: 2008 • <i>Naval Institute Proceedings</i>, November 1993 • <i>American Heritage</i>, October-November 1985, with article “Four Months on the Front Line” by Nikolai Stevenson

Inez Bull Collection

Montclair musician and educator, Inez Bull (1920-2010). Bull, a concert pianist and coloratura soprano, taught music at Julliard and worked with mentally challenged children in Totowa. She was descendent of Ole Bull, a renowned violinist, who established a Norwegian colony in Pennsylvania.

Box 1	Folder Title	Content
1	Scrapbook (white cover, embossed figure of pirate) 1943-1945	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program: Memorial Day Service to honor George Inness’s sons, killed in World War II, performance by Inez Bull

Royal F. Shepard Jr, Township Historian Collection

Royal F. Shepard, Jr was the Montclair Township Historian from 1996-2004. He was a minister, a gifted poet, and a writer winning several poetry and fiction prizes.

Box	Folder Title	Content
5	Events: WWII 1945	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articles on Montclair Forum meetings in March 1945 about Montclair residents hopes for the United States’ actions after the war

Vertical Files Collection

This collection contains a large volume of files that pertain to many aspects of Montclair’s rich history. It includes a vast wealth of information on specific people, organizations and groups, as well as the town’s government, committees, and schools.

File and Drawer	Folder	Subfolder and Contents
2, 2	Montclair History Reports Folder 3	<p>Montclair and WWII</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ration book for Francis Ellis • “Montclairian's Father, Jerry Yellin, a WWII Hero," Montclair Local, 11/24/2020 • The Architectural Forum: Civilian Defense Reference Number, January 1942. Found inside 30 North Mountain Ave, aka Evergreens. Articles include: Blackout, Camouflage, Building Protection, Air Raid Shelters, and Civilian Defense Buildings <p>Warren G. Holmes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hanging decoration with American flag and “Over There” written on it • Card with “American Love It or Leave It” written on it • Newspaper articles from Newark Evening News about War effort st home and overseas, Dates: November 1942 - February 1943
3, 1	People Folder 1	<p>People - Newspaper articles about individual African Americans in Montclair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Montclair WWII Veteran Reflects on His Service," James Brunson, Montclair Local, 05/27/2020

Photos

Location	Folder Title	Content
Clark House, 1 st Floor, Terhune Library, Photo Cabinet	2019.038	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photograph of Thomas Grasso, uncle (father's brother) to the donor (Janice Grasso). Thomas is "in the second row, the short second boy from the back behind the taller girl." The schoolroom depicted is unknown. • Photograph of Thomas Grasso, the uncle (father's brother) of the donor (Janice Grasso). Thomas is pictured with his mother, Maria Concetta Grasso. They are both from Montclair. • Framed page titled “On the Newark Service Front”

Location	Folder Title	Content
Clark House, 1 st Floor, Terhune Library, Photo Cabinet	2021.002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photograph of a man with a pipe pointing at the top of a metaphorical thermometer for the Fifth War Loan in Montclair. The quota for Montclair is \$5,175,000. Possibly taken during World War II. The fifth war loan began in June 12, 1944 and lasted until July 8, 1944. • Photograph of two women surrounded by books. In the background is a banner that reads "Headquarters Victory B[onds] Campaign" • Photograph of possible teenagers/young adults (both men and women) sorting through a pile of coats, possibly for a coat drive. They appear to be in a large hall of some kind with marble columns.

Objects

Location	Contents
Crane House & Historic YWCA, 3 rd Floor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Jersey Auxillary Police Department Jacket. Belonged to Ira Cole who lived at 15 Columbus Avenue with his wife, Anna from 1925 to at least 1969. During WWII, Ira was tasked with watching for enemy aircraft from Eagle Rock.
Crane House & Historic YWCA, 2 nd Floor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A finely made tan-white crochet quilt. According to Elberta Stone, her mother made this during World War II, while Elberta was away at college. The mother would crochet while watching movies at the theater.

Books

Location	Contents
Clark House, 1st Floor, Albert Payson Terhune Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fighting Hitler from the New Jersey Suburbs</i>. World War II home front experience in Essex County of the author. By Jim Berrall. 2015.