

## **R. Bruce Shipley Collection 1909 – 1917 and 1980**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

**Title:** R. Bruce Shipley Collection  
**Collection Number:** 02  
**Physical Description:** 2 boxes  
**Creator:** Sara Shipley

### **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**Provenance:** The R. Bruce Shipley Collection was donated to Milligan College by Sara Shipley in August of 2003. Todd Norris, vice president of institutional advancement, transferred the collection to the Milligan College Archives and Special Collections on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August, 2003.

**Access:** The collection is open for research.

**Processing Information:** Ginger Dillon finished processing the collection and updating the finding aid on February 22, 2006.

### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

R. Bruce Shipley was born to William Bruce and Delia Birchfield Shipley in 1914. He lived with his mother and stepfather, J.B. Nave, in Elizabethton, TN. Both Delia and William Bruce attended Milligan College. The names of William Bruce Shipley and Delia Birchfield only can be found in the *Milligan College New Horizon* yearbook of 1909. Though she is not listed in any previous years, *The Periscope* names Delia Birchfield Shipley among the graduates in the Class of 1917.

R. Bruce Shipley attended Milligan College in 1935, but received his Bachelors and Masters of Science Degrees from the University of Tennessee. After graduation, Shipley worked with the Tennessee Valley Authority for 31 years before retiring and becoming a power systems development consultant. This second career took him overseas and opened opportunities for him to speak publicly throughout the United States. Shipley also received awards for his amateur photography, authored a book, and wrote several scholarly articles.

R. Bruce Shipley married Sara Swan in 1940. They had no children. The Shipleys moved to Johnson City in 1984 and attended First Christian Church of Johnson City, though their membership remained at First Christian Church of Elizabethton. R. Bruce Shipley died on December 12, 2002.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The R. Bruce Shipley Collection contains photographs and invitations apparently passed down to Shipley by his parents, Delia Birchfield and William Bruce Shipley, from their time as students at Milligan College. Delia Shipley's diploma from Milligan is also included. These items date from 1909 through 1917. The collection also contains artifacts from R. Bruce Shipley's career and hobbies. The bulk of these artifacts is undated though they all appear to be circa 1980. The collection is in two Series. Series I contains photographs, invitations and commencement materials from Milligan College and Series II contains artifacts belonging to R. Bruce Shipley.

## **SERIES DESCRIPTION**

### **Series I, Artifacts from Milligan College, 1909 – 1917, Box 1.**

This series contains five photographs of Milligan students and faculty. Image #1 is of Josephus Hopwood, Image #2 of Sarah E. L. Hopwood, Image #3 is of the student body at Milligan (1909), Image #4 is of Delia Birchfield in graduation regalia. A note included with this photograph dated it as either 1910 or 1911. However, Delia did not receive a diploma from Milligan until 1917, leaving the precise date of this photo uncertain. Image #5 is of a small group of people, most likely students on campus.

Except for Image #5, each photograph has been placed in Mylar with an acid-free paper identifier. Image #5 is on a piece of cloth. The cloth was rolled between archival tissue paper and this was then rolled into a piece of Mylar with an acid-free identifier and secured. Image #3 has a post-it note written by Todd Norris included. This note identifies William Bruce Shipley and Delia Birchfield within the photo.

This series also contains two invitations and a diploma. The first invitation is to the Adelpian Literary Society's annual banquet in 1909. It contains a name card for Mr. Bruce Shipley and Miss Cordelia Birchfield. The second invitation is to the commencement exercises of the Milligan College class of 1910. There is no recipient information on the invitation, though when the Milligan College Archives and Special Collections received the collection, this invitation was in an envelope postmarked 1913. The envelope has been kept with the invitation, though it is obvious that the two objects do not actually belong together.

These items have been placed in Mylar with acid-free paper supports and identifiers.

The diploma was bestowed upon Delia Birchfield Shipley by Milligan College in 1917. It has been unrolled and placed in mylar.

**Series II, Artifacts from R. Bruce Shipley, circa 1980, Box 2.**

Series III contains a Kenwood R-1000 shortwave radio, headset, and extra fuses. The headset was taken out of its original box though the warranty and operation instruction paperwork was kept with it. A receipt found inside the headset box states that the radio receiver and headset were bought in 1980. This receipt was also kept with the collection.

Series III also contains a leather case full of E.O. Richter & Co. drafting tools, a large and a small slide rule in leather cases, various stencils for electronic diagram construction, two triangular rulers, and an ink pen with stylus. These artifacts were put into a smaller box to keep them together and organized; box 2-1 contains these artifacts. (Note: two other ink pens were removed from the collection because they did not have styli. All three leather cases had leather treatment applied for protection and preservation.)

Finally, Series III contains a Texas Instruments SR-52 programmable slide rule calculator in a case with three small sets of slide rules. One more set of slide rules is loose, as is the calculator's power adapter and three operation manuals. These artifacts were put into a smaller box to keep them together and organized; box 2-2 contains these artifacts.