

Inventory of the

Corey - Vesta - Cunningham Family
Malta, Illinois

Collection

in the

Regional History Center

RC 324

INTRODUCTION

Phylis Cunningham donated the Corey-Vesta-Cunningham Collection to the Regional History Center on August 22, 2012. Additional records were donated in 2015.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center, literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 2.5
Number of containers: 5
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 324

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection consists of materials related to the Corey family, the Vesta family, and the Cunningham family from the DeKalb area. However, the majority of the materials are the personal and professional papers of Phylis Cunningham, a former employee of the Malta and DeKalb school districts, and Orville Cunningham, a former employee of the DeKalb General Electric plant. The records include correspondence, minutes, memos, newspapers and clippings, commencement invitations and programs, newsletters, administrative papers, industry guides, and photographs. The collection is arranged into three main series: (I) Corey family, (II) Vesta family, (III) Cunningham family. Within these series material is arranged by record type, then chronologically. Series I consists of one small file folder of Corey family materials, ranging from around 1927 to 1975, and Series II consists of one small file folder of Vesta family materials, ranging from 1906 to around 1984.

Series III is divided into three subseries: (1) Phylis Cunningham, (2) Malta and Dekalb Schools and communities, and (3) Orville Cunningham. Subseries 1 contains personal and office papers relating to Phylis Cunningham and the Cunningham family, including greeting cards, newspaper clippings, and school administrative newsletters from 1926-2003. The school administrative newsletters in Subseries 1 are separated from the professional papers found in Subseries 2 because they are not directly related to Malta or DeKalb schools. Subseries 2 consists of papers accumulated from the professional and volunteer work of Phylis Cunningham in the Malta and Dekalb schools and communities; the documents also reflect the participation of Orville Cunningham in these schools and communities. The bulk of the materials consist of Malta Schools programs and pamphlets dated from 1932-2000, minutes from the Malta Community Consolidated District #185, 1951 to 1959, and minutes from the Malta Education Foundation, 1989 to 1995. Subseries 3 contains professional papers and General Electric (DeKalb) materials belonging to Orville Cunningham. The General Electric publications found in this subseries may be of particular interest, as they include issues of the "DeKalb Daily Digest," General Electric "Monogram" Magazine, and General Electric News.

The addendum includes records of the Corey, Vesta, and Cunningham families as well as photographs, Malta Methodist Church bulletins and Women of Christian Service materials, projects of Phylis and her brother Philip completed during their schooling at DeKalb Township High School, and graduation and reunion records for the DeKalb Township High School Class of 1936. Dates of the materials in the addendum range from 1909 to 2011.

Researchers may also be interested in materials related to Helen Corey and Dorothy Corey in the University Archives Student Papers (UA 38).

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Phylis Cunningham (formerly Phylis Corey) grew up in the DeKalb, IL area. Her mother was Carrie Lillian Vesta and her father was Walter A. Corey. She graduated from the DeKalb High School Class of 1936. Phylis worked for the Malta School District for 18 years as Bookkeeper, Treasurer, and Clerk of the Board. In 1976, Phylis left Malta Schools and began her position as Administrative Assistant to the Associate Superintendent of Business Affairs and Labor Relations in the DeKalb School District, from which she retired in 1980. She was a member of the Malta Education Foundation Board, the Malta United Methodist Church, The United Methodist Women's Society, and a 64 year member of The Malta Women's Club. Phylis was also a Notary Public for DeKalb County. She married Orville Cunningham in 1939, and they had two sons, James and Stanton. Phylis passed away at the age of 97 on May 4, 2016.

Orville Cunningham (1916-1998) was born in Bergenfield, New Jersey, and moved to the Midwest in 1939. He worked as Chief Inspector for the Austin Western Company in Rochelle, Illinois, during the 1940s and 50s. At the end of 1955, he began working for the General Electric Appliance Motor Department in DeKalb as a Quality Control Analyst, then as a Foreman. Orville continued to work at GE until his retirement in 1980. He was also a member of the Malta School Board. Orville passed away on June 10, 1998.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Administrative assistants	Vesta Family
Corey Family	
Cunningham Family	
Cunningham, Orville	
Cunningham, Phylis	
DeKalb (Ill.)	
Education	
Factories--Periodicals	
General Electric Company	
Malta (Ill.)	
Malta Education Foundation	
Malta Schools	

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Series I. Corey Family		
1	1	Corey Family, circa 1927-1975
Series II. Vesta Family		
	2	Vesta Family, 1906-circa 1984
Series III. Cunningham Family		
Subseries A. Phylis Cunningham		
		Family Papers:
	3	School trip of James Cunnigham, October 11, 1959
	4	Papers relating to Stanton Cunningham, 1969-1972
	5-6	Greeting cards sent to Cunningham family, no date
	7	Photographs found in greeting cards (3), no date
	8	Church correspondence, 1926, 1985, 1989
	9	Newspaper Clippings related to Cunningham family, no date
	10	Photographs of Cunningham family (2, 1 negative), no date
		Personal and office papers from Phylis:
	11	Personal writing, no date
	12	Personal papers and souvenirs, no date
	13	Souvenir church and school programs and newspaper clipping, no date
	14	Newspapers and clippings, 1929, 1957, 1975, 2003
	15	Personal office papers, no date
	16	Illinois Association of School Business Officials, 1976- 1986
	17	School Administrative Newsletters, 1968-1974
Oversize		
Drawer 32	6	Notary Public Certificate, March 11, 1968
Subseries B. Malta and Dekalb Schools and Communities		
		Malta Community and Associations:
	18	Papers and pamphlets related to Malta community, ca.1963-2003

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	5
1	19	Malta Community Consolidated District #185 Board meeting minutes [book], April 2, 1951-December 14, 1959	
	20	Papers found inside Board meeting minutes book	
2	1	Malta Education Foundation memos, minutes, and Treasurer's reports, September 1989-October 1995	
	2	Malta Parent Teacher Association, 1956, 1962-1964	
		Malta Schools and DeKalb School District:	
	3-4	Malta Schools programs and pamphlets, 1932-2000	
	5	Malta Township High School Open House, April 4, 1965	
	6	Malta Schools Papers, 1960-1976	
	7	Malta High School Groundbreaking Ceremony, March 13, 1964	
	8	Malta Music Boosters Committee, July-September 1971	
	9	Malta Mirror, February 1960	
	10	Malta School Newsletters, (1962-1996)	
	11	Malta High School Alumni 1881-1995, 1995	
	12	DeKalb School District papers and later Malta School papers, 1976-2000	
	13	Newspaper clippings related to Dekalb School District and Malta Schools, 1995-2000	
Subseries C. Orville Cunningham			
3	1	Austin-Western Company, 1944-1954	
	2	General Electric office papers, 1955-1986	
	3	General Electric Department Course work, 1956	
	4-5	Sales Analysis Institute Course material, 1966-1967	
	6	General Electric Savings and Security Program, 1961, 1966, 1976	
	7	Papers relating to General Electric pension plans, 1980, 1987, 2001	
	8	Industry guides, no date	
	9	Photographs of Orville Cunningham (2), no date	
4	1	"DeKalb Daily Digest," (1962-1983)	
	2	General Electric "Monogram" Magazine, (1980-1990)	
	3	General Electric News, (1956-1960)	

BOX

FOLDER

DESCRIPTION

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ADDENDUM

5		Corey Family
	1	Walter and Carrie Corey, 1940-1985
	2	Corey Family Society Newsletter, February 2010
	3	Philip Corey School Projects, no date
	4	Vesta Family, 1909, 1920
		Personal and office papers from Phylis:
	5-6	Phylis Corey School Projects, 1932-1933
	7	Phylis Corey First Job Manual, no date
	8	Class of 1936 DeKalb Township High School, 1936-2011
	9	Cunningham Family, 1964-1968
	10	Malta Methodist Church, 1940-1971
	11	Malta Township Records, 1946-1986
	12	Photographs, 1918-2002
	13	Esket Baxter Records (Phylis' Cousin), 1913-1992
	14	Ruth Cunningham, Pilot Club International, no date
	15	Varsity Track Meet ribbon, 1962; bookmark, no date
	16	Newspaper Articles, 1952, no date
	17	First Lutheran Church (DeKalb) bulletin, February 4, 1960
	18	Nordic Fest program, July 1984