

CROSBY (DIXIE HAMMOND) FAMILY PAPERS
(Mss. 4805)
Inventory List

Compiled by
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Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library
Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

Revised 2009

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SUMMARY

Size	159 items; 3 volumes
Geographic Locations	Louisiana, Mississippi, Japan
Inclusive Dates	ca. 1890-1992
Bulk Dates	1937-1965
Languages	English
Summary	Family papers of the Crosby family primarily include correspondence, manuscripts, photographs, and, newspaper clippings relating to family affairs, work, military service, and life in Depression-era Baton Rouge, La., and Natchez, Miss.
Access Restrictions	None
Reproduction Note	Duplication is allowed
Copyright	Physical rights are retained by the LSU Libraries. Copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Citation	Dixie Hammond Crosby Family Papers, Mss. 4805, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Location(s)	Range 34:, OS:C

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

This collection contains the family papers of Mack Gerald Crosby (d. January 15, 1992), Dixie Lillie Myrtle Hammond Crosby (September 15, 1917-July 17, 2000), and their daughter Dixie Lee “Dee” Crosby Brown (August 11, 1938-May, 7, 1967). Gerald Crosby and Dixie Hammond were both from Baton Rouge, La., and attended Louisiana State University in the 1930s. Dixie Hammond was the great-granddaughter of Baton Rouge photographer A.D. Lytle. Dixie Hammond’s parents were Mamie Sue Lytle (b. December 12, 1891) and Myrle Hammond and they had two children, Howard L. Hammond and Dixie. Dixie Hammond married Mack Gerald Crosby on March 4, 1937, in the Episcopal Student Center on the LSU campus. Dixie and Mack had a daughter on August 11, 1938, Dixie Lee “Dee” Crosby. Gerald Crosby joined the United States Air Force and served in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, eventually earning the rank of major. Dee Crosby married ca. 1965 but died in an accident on May 7, 1967.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The family papers and photographs of the Crosby family concern family matters, personal and professional activities, life in Depression-era Louisiana and Mississippi, Louisiana State University, and service in the United States Air Force. The bulk of the correspondence in the collection is between Dixie Hammond Crosby and Gerald Crosby in March 1937 just after they were married while he worked in Natchez, Mississippi, and between April and June 1965 when Gerald was stationed in Japan and San Francisco. Ena Florence Hammond Lovell, Dixie Hammond Crosby’s aunt (her father’s sister), wrote two of the notebooks—one on wild flowers in Texas and the other about the life of Dixie’s grandmother—and another notebook with entries on family events was likely written by Dixie’s mother Mamie Sue Hammond. The photographs are mainly of family members and some of them were taken in the late 19th century. The majority are of Gerald, Dixie Hammond, and Dee Crosby.

LIST OF SUB-GROUPS, SERIES, AND SUBSERIES

- I. Correspondence, 1932-1965, undated (Box 1)
- II. Printed Items, 1937-1992, undated (Box 1)
- III. Writings, ca. 1950 (Box 1-2)
- IV. Photographs, ca. 1890-1965 (Box 3)

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**I. Correspondence, 1932-1965, undated**

This series contains the correspondence of Gerald Mack Crosby and Dixie Hammond Crosby with a few letters from their daughter Dixie Lee “Dee” Crosby and other family members. The majority of the letters were written within two short periods. The first was in March of 1937—right after the Gerald and Dixie were married—when Gerald moved to Natchez, Mississippi, to work and March-July 1965 when Gerald was stationed in Japan. The first group of letters discuss Gerald’s and Dixie Hammond’s first days of married life and Gerald’s search for a new job. The second set of letters is mostly from Gerald to his wife and describes his service in Japan and his efforts to return home.

II. Printed Items, 1937-1992, undated

There are two pamphlets in this collection: one is titled “Wing Tips” written by the Army Air Force Officer Candidate School and the other is a program for a reunion of the United States Air Force 1631st SQD/Group. The newspaper clippings mostly are connected to the immediate family or were clippings sent by Gerald Crosby to his wife. Amongst the ephemera are certificates of Dixie Lee Crosby from the American Red Cross, a poem by Gerald Crosby, and Dixie Hammond’s application for acceptance in the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

III. Writings, 1947-ca. 1950

There are four volumes in this series. Three of them date from around 1950 while Gerald, Dixie Hammond and Dee were living in Scotland, and were written by Dixie Hammond Crosby’s aunt Ena Florence Lovell and are mostly about her family history. The fourth volume is a sparsely used journal, most likely that of Gerald Crosby. The journal includes short entries about work and appointments from May 29, 1947, until January 27, 1949.

IV. Photographs, ca. 1890-1965

Most of the photographs in this series are of Gerald, Dixie Hammond, and Dixie Lee Crosby. Gerald Crosby’s photographs cover the expanse of his military career with images from World War II to the end of his career, many taken during a ceremony. Includes a panoramic photograph of U.S. Army Air Forces Officer Candidate School, Squadron 17 class, 1944, Miami Beach, Florida. Most of the photographs are identified by Gerald Crosby. Dixie Hammond Crosby’s photographs span her adult life and include some studio portraits. Among the pictures of Dixie Lee Crosby are pictures from her early childhood until she was an adult at her wedding. Also, there are several photographs of extended family members. Among these are some from the late 19th century and one carte-de-visite taken by Dixie Hammond’s great grandfather, A.D. Lytle.

INDEX TERMS

Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found in the series indicated, as represented by their numbers.

Terms	Series
Baton Rouge (La.)—History—20 th century	I, II, IV
Brown, Dixie Lee “Dee” Crosby, 1938-1967	I, II, IV
Crosby, Dixie Lillie Myrtle Hammond, 1917-2000	I, II, III, IV
Crosby, Mack Gerald, d. 1992	I, II, III, IV
Depression—1929—Louisiana	I
Letters (correspondence)	I
Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College	I, IV
Love Letters	I
Lytle, A.D.	IV
Natchez (Miss.)—History—20 th century	I
Photographs	IV
Poetry	II
Powell, Ena Florence	III
Printed Material—Newspaper clippings	II
Soldiers—Louisiana	I, II, IV
United States. Air Force.	I, IV
United States Air Force. Tactical Airlift Squadron (Provisional), 1639 th	II
United States. Army Air Corp	I, IV
Vietnamese Conflict, 1961-1975	I, IV
World War II, 1939-1945	I, IV

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>				
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>	
34	1	1	Series I. Correspondence 1932-1965, undated Correspondence, 1932-March 8, 1937	
		2	Correspondence, March 9, 1937-March 10, 1937	
		3	Correspondence, March 11, 1937-July 6, 1937	
		4	Correspondence, July 9, 1937-March 31, 1940	
		5	Correspondence, April, 1940-June, 1963	
		6	Correspondence, December, 1963-April, 1965	
		7	Correspondence, May 2, 1965-May 25, 1965	
		8	Correspondence, May 26, 1965-July 20, 1965	
		9	Correspondence, undated	
				Series II. Printed Items, 1937-1992, undated
				10 Newspaper Clippings, 1938-1992
				11 Pamphlets, 1942, 1980
		12 Ephemera, 1942, 1947, 1965		
34	2		Series III. Writings, 1947-ca. 1950	
		13	Vol. 1 Narrative "Down Memory Lane of Reynold's Clan" by Ena Florence Lovell	
			Vol. 2. Narrative "Down Memory Lane to My Only Niece: Dixie (Hammond) Crosby by Ena Florence (Hammond) Lovell	
			Vol. 3. Manuscript "My Summer Holiday, 1945-49" by Ena Florence Lovell	
			Vol. 4. Diary "Record"	
34	3		Series IV. Photographs, ca. 1890-1965	
		1	Buildings/cars, 1960	
		2	WWII aviator, ca. 1945	
		3	Family photographs, ca. 1890-1965	
		4	Album pages, ca. 1940-1965	
		5	Dixie Lee "Dee" Crosby, ca. 1940-1965	
		6	Dixie Hammond Crosby, ca. 1940-1965	
7	Gerald Mack Crosby, ca. 1940-1965			
OS:C		1	Panoramic photograph of US Army Air Forces Officer Candidate School, Squadron 17 class, 1944	