

Helen Mercer Collection

(Found in Center of Dubuque History, 2001)

Box 1

1. *The Century* by Peter Jennings and Todd Brewster, 1998
2. *Dubuque on the Mississippi* by Fr. William Wilkie 1987
3. *Dubuque: the Encyclopedia* by Randolph W. Lyon
4. *The Columbia Viking Desk Encyclopedia* 1953
5. *The Old Lady in Dubuque's Town* by Albert Kwasky 1991
6. *The Old Lady in Dubuque and her Neighbors* by Albert Kwasky 1999
7. Different maps of Iowa: Des Moines and a full state map
8. Different brochures about the Mississippi
9. *Victorian Colored Glass Patterns and Prices* 1981
10. *The Golden Guide to American Antiques* 1967
11. *Indians of the Western Frontier: Paintings of George Catlin* by George I. Quimby 1954
12. *Antique Collecting for Everyone* by Katharine Morrison McClinton 1965
13. Guest book remembering "Moco" Mercer Day held and organized by U.D. 5-18-69
14. Guest book for Helen Mercer from Historical Society 12-6-78
15. *Hand Book of Old Pottery and Porcelain Marks* by C. Jordan Thorn 1965
16. *The Heritage of Dubuque an Architectural View* by Lawerance J. Sommer 1975
17. *Norman Rockwell A Sixty Year Retrospective* 1972
18. *Norman Rockwell's Patriotic Times* by George Mendoza 1985
19. *Glass, Tableware, Bowls and Vases* by Jane Shadel Spillman 1982
20. *Introduction to Chiropractic A Natural Method of Healthcare* by Louis Sportelli, D.C. 1986
21. Several editions of *Historic Preservation* 1976-77

Box 2

1. Personal Annotated Calendars 1987-1992, 1994
2. Mercantile Band Of Dubuque Calendars 1992-1999
3. Calendar of Events Dubuque Festival 1976 (June 26 thru July 4)
4. Dubuque County Historical Society 1979 list of members on three committees.
5. Memo to Dubuque County Historical Society members informing on nominates for office positions 11 Jan 1978 2 copies
6. Memo from Alan Spensley, President of Dubuque County Historical Society to General Campaign Workers 20 March 1984
7. Dubuque County Historical Society Treasurer's Report Feb. 28, 1979 to March 31, 1979
8. Folder with research method materials.
9. *Union Park A Place of Memories* by Michael A. Borge 1983
10. *Local History How to Gather It, Write It, and Publish It* by Donald Dean Parker 1944
11. *Dubuque County History* by Iowa Writers Project 1942

Box 3

1. *History of Dubuque County* 1880
2. *History of Dubuque County* 1911 edited by Franklin T. Oldt
3. *Over 49 Views and News* newspaper clipping concerning Union Park
4. Letter to the editor by Ruth Clark concerning sexual orientation no date
5. Notebook with references of things and people found in different Dubuque History books.
6. 1992 UD Alumni Directory
7. Personal notes on History
8. National Zip Code Directory 1909
9. Personal notes
10. Mrs. Helen Mercer copying a quote from 1958 Diplomat describing history
11. Old Folks are Worth a Fortune no date
12. Letter to the editor by Lynda L. Jelinck about homosexuals 10-4-99
13. Folder with exercise brochures
14. Tourist magazine about Dubuque entitled *Dubuque, Iowa* 1981

Box 4

1. *The Flavor of Dubuque* 1971 by the Women's Auxiliary of the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra
2. *Here Comes Doctor Ward: A Climb to Glory* by Howard E. Cartwright 1994
3. *Dubuque Folklore A Contribution from American Trust and Savings Bank to Dubuqueland in Celebration of Our Nation's Bicentennial* 1976
4. *Betty Thomas Cookbook and Household Hints* KDTH AM 1370
5. *Another Flavor Dubuque* published by the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra 1983
6. *Coming of Age* by Studs Terrell 1995
7. *A Reporter's Life* by Walter Cronkite 1996
8. A card from Therese to Granny Jan. 1997
9. Webster's New Word Dictionary of the American Language 1957
10. *Historic Houses of Early America* by Elise Lathrop 1927
11. Picture of the Kelsey's House in Roanoke, Indiana April 1957
12. Christmas card from Dick and Charlene Erwin 1996
13. Christmas card from Gibson Family and several years of photos
14. Two votes from Walter Peterson and Bill Kruse congratulating Mrs. Mercer for her T-H Article 1996
15. Five copies of T-H Article about Mrs. Mercer 1-2-96
16. 2 copies article about Mrs. Mercer and the Ham House August 3, 1975
17. 1955 T-H article about college football coaches' wives in Dubuque, Mrs. Mercer was in article.
18. Two articles on Mrs. Mercer's award from Iowa Historical Society 6-5-91
19. Seven copies of article about Mrs. Mercer entitled "Helen Mercer hardest job is finding time to retire" April 1985
20. Dubuque County Historical Society Newsletter Spring 1998
21. Dubuque County Historical Society Newsletter Spring 1997
22. Letter from Eileen C. Dunphy to Mrs. Mercer 8-16-95

23. Postcard from Peter Harrtard? (SP) picture of Old Iowa State Capitol on front of postcard 6-17-81
24. Copy of letter Mrs. Mercer wrote to Dr. Frank Ervin in Montreal, Canada 8-3-94
25. Thank you note from Joan Efken and the Old House Enthusiasts Club to Mrs. Mercer no date
26. Mrs. Helen Mercer (Cooper) death notice in Fort Wayne, Indiana noted written saying A.A. Cooper daughter 12-24-87
27. Program for 1991 Congress of Historical Organizations
28. Folder with small pictures of Mrs. Mercer no date
29. Note from John 29 September 1994 no last name
30. Editorial concerning Yahima Valley Museum in T-H 1994
31. Picture of John Baule Christmas of 1996
32. Article about Yakima Valley Museum revamp 10-7-94
33. Picture of plate purchased in Dubuque but date unknown
34. Picture presented to Mrs. Mercer by Blanche Beraniger Dec. 1, 1960
35. Letter to Mrs. Mercer from Kay E. Lebeda of Simpson College 8-6-91
36. Article about the retirement of Loren Horton May 14, 1995 (Des Monies Register)
37. Picture of Helen Mercer in T-H when Rear Admiral Richard Harris visited Dubuque Helen Mercer and three other ladies entertained the Admiral's wife no date
38. Article announcing that Helen Mercer received a perfect score on a scholarship test at Simpson College Oct. 6, 19?
39. Remembrance of Marge Kremer of UD circa 1993
40. Thank you note from Beverly Vander Zyl to Mrs. Mercer 1994 Spring
41. Letter from Charles N. Burrows to Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Mercer 4-29-64
42. Three huge photographs of Mrs. Mercer circa late 1960's
43. Article about Dr. Donovan Ward after his death 4-18-98
44. Article about Mrs. Mercer in Julien's Journal May 1994
45. University of Dubuque 1998 Report to Donors
46. Letter from Ronald E. Heath of UD to Mrs. Mercer 4-4-95
47. University of Dubuque paper Alumni News Fall 1998 2 copies
48. Letter to the editor from Jim Baumann 7-8-99
49. T-H article entitled "Judge rules in UD's favor over faculty 6-24-99
50. Letter to the Editor from Donald R. Elred 6-23-99
51. Letter to the Editor from Steven L. Seng 6-8-99
52. Letter to the Editor from Russ and Ruth Nash 6-2-99
53. Letter to the Editor from Therese Maiers 6-1-99
54. Letter to the Editor from Frank P. Belcastro 5-21-99
55. Letter to the Editor from Kathy Ann Kelly 5-15-99
56. Letter to the Editor from Keith Elskamp 5-14-99
57. Letter to the Editor from Patrick Dunn 5-23-99
58. T-H article "UD oks faculty cuts" 5-14-99
59. T-H article "UD faculty seeks professors rehiring" 5-15-99
60. Ann Lander's article on Y2K circa 1999
61. T-H article "Report: Only 3 states, including Iowa, cleared fro Y2K" 8-15-99

62. Article "Y2K –Be prepared- Don't be scared" no date
63. T-H article "Officials predict solar storm in new millennium." 11-12-99
64. Senior Circuit article on Y2K no date
65. Invitation 1999 UD Alumni Athletics Hall of Fame Induction and Athletic Banquet no date
66. Letter from Connie Hodge and Greg Yoko of Blue and White Club 10-5-98
67. Letter to University of Dubuque students, faculty, staff, Alumni, and Families from Rev. Jeffery Bullock, Ph.D President
68. Letter to the Editor from Frank Belcastro 4-7-99
69. Letter from Ronald E. Heath Vice President of Advancement 4-9-99
70. Letter from the President of UD, Rev. Jeffery Bullock, Ph.D 4-30-99
71. College Fair 10-10-99
72. Senior Circuit Dec. 1998 "Looking Back"
73. T-H article "UD president: Change necessary for survival" 9-10-99
74. Letter to the Editor from Frank Belcastro 8-12-99
75. Letter to the Editor from James Lindsay 7-11-99
76. Letter to the Editor from Don Shields 10-4-99
77. Homecoming 1999 information brochure
78. Two letters from the President of UD Walter F. Peterson 11-13-89
79. List of trophies connected with Mrs. Mercer husband 11-22-93
80. Thank you note from John Ogria President 11-8-93
81. Note of Mrs. Mercer 12-6 to 12-14 1993
82. "New Horizons" summer 1998
83. "Pro UD News and Notes" vol. 3 issue 9 12-31-98
84. T-H article about Mrs. Mercer receiving an award 11-9-80
85. Note from Msgr. Anthony W. Sigwarth no date
86. Christmas card from Dorothy and Rider? Dec. 1980
87. Note from Mr. & Mrs. Leo E. Tippe no date
88. Note from Ann and Paul Hanson, Janet?, Hank Waltz, Dan Dirch and other friends no date
89. Letter from Rider Wallis Nov 13, 1980
90. Note from Ruth Hertmann no date
91. Letter from Jan Appel
92. Letter from Barb and Harry Sommer 11-11-80
93. Letter from Ed, Jan, and Doug Zenner
94. Press release that German Consul to take part in DubuqueFest May 7, 1985
95. Invitation to Dubuque County Historical Society Christmas Party to honor Helen Mercer Dec. 1978
96. Picture of Mrs. Mercer with friend 1978 Christmas
97. Letter from Donna L. Smith chair of Dubuque County Board of Supervisors 9-18-87
98. T-H article notice of Mrs. Mercer receiving her historical preservation award.
99. (DCHS) newsletter notice of same award 1980 Dubuque County Historical Society
100. More notices of her award in various papers 1980
101. Letter from Loren Horton Jan. 14, 1980

102. Another letter from Loren Horton September 23, 1980
103. Letter from Ginny Babka September 24, 1980
104. Note from George Biasi circa 1980
105. Letter from Joe & Carol Bitter September 19, 1980
106. Letter from Candace Floyd September 6, 1980
107. Letter from Patti Carr Black September 16, 1980
108. Letter from Gerald George Director of the American Association for state and local history 6 October 1980
109. Another letter from Loren Horton 20 November 1980
110. Another letter Candace Floyd 9 February 1987
111. Letter from John ? 24 March 1979
112. Two letters from Msgr. Norbert C. Barrett president of the Dubuque County Historical Society October 9, 1979
113. Letter from Richard H. Thomas professor of history at Cornell College November 20, 1980
114. Personal notes listing people who gave Mrs. Mercer gifts
115. List of people did attend awards dinner
116. Transcript of fine arts society dinner
117. Letter from David L. Roberts president of Dubuque Fine Arts Society October 28, 1980
118. Note from Mrs. L. Dean Wallace
119. Invitation to a dinner honoring Mrs. Mercer 1-14-85
120. Note from Dean Cooper Gilmore no date
121. Note from Ruth & Russ? No date
122. Award for volunteer service from Dubuque County Historical Society 1984
123. Letter from Jane? No date
124. Letter from Penny D. Gronen May 19, 1988 another letter from John? With enclosed "The Minnesota History Interpreter June 1989
125. Letter from Art Roche April 13, 1988
126. Letter from Sister Kathryn Lawlor, BVM
127. Copy of a article in Julien's Journal Nov. 1998
128. Congratulations note from Vince Miller with copy of Mrs. Mercer article attached 1976 4 copies
129. Another small clip about Mrs. Mercer and the Ham House 1976
130. 1991 message from Mike Pratt and Mrs. Mercer award newspaper clipping
131. Small thank you note from Dean Kit Schantz 1991
132. Letter of congratulations from Jon Davidson 1991
133. Letter form Diane Gallagher Alumni Director at UD 1991
134. Congratulations card from Walter Peterson 1991
135. Letter from Thomas Auge then director of the Center of the Dubuque History to Mrs. Mercer on her award from State Historical society 13 May 1991
136. Letter from Margaret Keyes chard of the Board of the Trustees of the State Historical Society of Iowa to Mrs. Mercer on her award 1991
137. Picture and small write up of Mrs. Mercer receiving her award from the state historical society 1991
138. 1976 awards banquet at Clarke College Mrs. Mercer received an award.

139. Letter from William G. Kruse President of First National Bank 1976
140. Letter from Rob Apel and Harvey Schmitt of Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce no date
141. Congratulations from Len Kruse circa 1991
142. Article from Iowa Historian announcing awards recipients of 1991
143. Article from Iowa Historian asking people to nominate for awards 1992
144. Small newspaper article talking about Mrs. Mercer award 6-15-91
145. Article from Labor Magazine writing about Gordie Kilgore receiving the Helen Mercer Award 1997
146. T-H article reporting on the Dubuque County Historical Society honoring Eddie Norman 1-15-98
147. Several photos of Helen Mercer with friends 1991

Box 5

1. *Berlitz Basic Spanish Dictionary* 1957
2. *New Webster's Crossword Puzzle Dictionary* 1992
3. *Write Better, Speak Better* by Reader's Digest 1972
4. *Cassell's New French Dictionary* 1951
5. *The Antiques Directory: Furniture Judith & Martin Miller General Ed.* 1985
6. *The Oxford History of American West* edited by Clyde A. Milner II Carol A. O'Connor, Martha A. Sandweiss
7. *A Guide to Victorian Antiques* by Raymond F. and Marguiente W. Yates 1949
8. *The World of Victoria* by James Norbury 1972
9. *The Collector's Encyclopedia of Antiques* edited by Phoebe Phillips 1973

Box 6

1. A copy of a bill for an act relating to the establishment of a state historical building code. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa filed Feb. 1, 1984
2. T-H article entitled "St. Luke's joins National Register" 7-6-98
3. 6 copies of a brochure entitled "The National Register of Historic Places" no date
4. List of places in Dubuque County that is on the National Register circa 1992
5. Document entitled "Appendix A: Standard Preservation Covenants" no date
6. List of nominated sites for places to be added to National Register no date
7. Personal notes of Mrs. Mercer on nominated sites for National Register circa 1989
8. Guide to Researching the History of Old Buildings Local Sources compiled by Mike Gibson no date
9. National Register of Historic Places no date
10. National Register of Historic Places May 30, 1991
11. Guide to Architectural Details prepared by the Iowa State Historical Department no date
12. Field Guide to Old-House Styles published by *The Old-House Journal* 1974
13. Map of Lower Main Street and Environs The Community Development Department 1981
14. Original Town of Dubuque Map. No date on the map

15. T-H article entitled "New Findings about old colors" by County Home Magazine
16. Information from the National Trust for Historic Preservation 1977
17. Folder about Lower main district and National Register circa 1980
18. Folder about the Round Barn being listed in National Register 1986
19. Folder containing articles on Mines of Spain 1982-1990
20. Folder containing articles and information on Ryan House
21. Folder containing information on Loetscher
22. Folder on Kelly House
23. Folder on Lincoln School
24. Folder on Holland Viner House
25. Folder on Hancock House
26. File on Ham House
27. File on Abercorn Farm
28. File on German Bank
29. File on Freight House
30. File on 4th St. Elevator
31. File on Dubuque Brew/Malt Company
32. File on County Jail
33. File on City Hall
34. File on Central School
35. File on Allen House
36. File on Courthouse
37. File On Eagle Point Park
38. File on Crystal Lake Park
39. File on Adams-Steiner
40. File on Asbury
41. Files on Blake, Smead-Kramer, Inn of Happiness
42. National Register of Historic Places Application Instructions
43. Folder full of T-H clippings on various topics
44. Daily Times article on the late John Blake circa 1906
45. Letter from Dubuque Town Bank Antique Show to Mrs. Mercer
46. 2 letters from James Jacobson to Mrs. Mercer 1984
47. More documents on Blake's Hollow Born
48. File on mining in Dubuque
49. File on Dubuque Museums

Box 7

1. File of new-clippings
2. File on Old House
3. File on personalities
4. File on John Plumbe, Jr.
5. File on Preservation
6. File on Publication
7. File on Research
8. File on Restoration in character, cleaning
9. File on stagecoach stops

10. File on Bus Tours
11. File on national register waiting action
12. File on architects, contractors, building references
13. File on bridges
14. File on Cabin Cathedral
15. File on Cemetery
16. File of correspondence
17. File on glass
18. File on historic districts
19. File on Hoover's Better Housing
20. File Indians
21. File on Loras