Guide to the Olsen/Ricklefs Family papers SC1414

Jenny Johnson
Department of Special Collections and University Archives
June 2018
Green Library
557 Escondido Mall
Stanford 94305-6064
specialcollections@stanford.edu
URL: http://library.stanford.edu/spc
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: Department of Special Collections and University Archives
Title: Olsen-Ricklefs Family papers
source: Mercer, Lucinda
creator: Olsen/Ricklefs Family
Identifier/Call Number: SC1414
Physical Description: 10.5 Linear Feet (7 cartons)
Date (inclusive): 1902-1983

Special Collections and University Archives materials are stored offsite and must be paged 48 hours in advance. For more information on paging collections, see the department's website: http://library.stanford.edu/spc.

Biographical / Historical
Margaret Olsen (Margo) (Dardie). Born 1905. Died 1984. Most of the letters and other documents are either written by her or were sent to her or relate to her family. First husband was Clarence Ricklefs. Second husband was Marshall Somerville. Owner of the Petroleum Specialty Company (which came to her from her father through Clarence) and manufacturer of Gage-O paste for determining the amount of water or gasoline at the bottom of oil storage tanks. Stanford ‘28, Philosophy. George Frederic Olsen (GF) (GFO). Margaret’s father. First petroleum engineer to graduate from Purdue University. Initiator of Gage-O (possibly created in his lab). Worked for Union Oil and General Petroleum among other oil and oil related companies.

Geneva Matthews Olsen. Margaret’s mother. Also a Purdue graduate.

George Frederic Olsen, Jr. Margaret’s brother. Worked in the War Office during WW2. Executive with Lane Drugs and related drug stores. Attended Stanford, not sure of the years.

Hildegard Matthews Olsen (Heidi). Margaret’s sister. Born about 1921 or 1922.

Clarence L. Ricklefs (Rick) (Duke). Margaret’s first wife, and father of Cynthia and Belinda. The producer of the New Shakespeare Company of San Francisco, 1965 to about 1982, with his second wife, Margrit Roma, who was the director. Stanford ‘29 (did not graduate).


Also included is some information relating to Geneva Matthews Olsen’s family – Matthews, Sullins, and Perkins.

Scope and Contents
Papers of the multi-generational Olsen/Ricklefs family, many of whom attended and/or graduated from Stanford University. Includes correspondence, diaries, and notebooks. Stanford graduates include Margaret Olsen, class of 1928; Robert U. Ricklefs, class of 1931; James Ricklefs, class of 1937; Cynthia Lyans Ricklefs Mercer, class of 1950; Joan Belinda Ricklefs, class of 1957; Lucinda Lyans Mercer, class of 1978. Other family members who attended Stanford, but did not earn degrees, include: George Frederic Olsen, Jr.; Clarence L. Ricklefs; and Marshall Somerville.

Conditions Governing Access
The materials are open for research use; materials must be requested at least 48 hours in advance of intended use. Audio-visual materials are not available in original format, and must be reformatted to a digital use copy.

Conditions Governing Use
All requests to reproduce, publish, quote from, or otherwise use collection materials must be submitted in writing to the Head of Special Collections and University Archives, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford, California 94304-6064. Consent
is given on behalf of Special Collections as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission from the copyright owner. Such permission must be obtained from the copyright owner, heir(s) or assigns. Restrictions also apply to digital representations of the original materials. Use of digital files is restricted to research and educational purposes.

**Preferred Citation**
Olsen/Ricklefs Family papers (SC1414). Dept. of Special Collections and University Archives, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford, Calif.

** Immediate Source of Acquisition**

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
Student life.
Correspondence.
Diaries.
Mercer, Lucinda
Olsen, Margaret
Olsen, George Fredric
Olsen, Geneva Matthews
Olsen, George Frederic, Jr.
Olsen, Hildegard Matthews
Ricklefs, Clarence L.
Ricklefs, Robert U.
Ricklefs, Richard
Ricklefs, James
Mercer, Cynthia Lyans Ricklefs
Ricklefs, Joan Belinda
Mercer, Lucinda Lyans
Mercer, Annette Linn
Somerville, Marshall
Olsen/Ricklefs Family

---

**Papers** Accession ARCH_2018_146

---

**Letters to and from Margaret Olsen (Ricklefs) Somerville**

**Scope and Contents**
Letters to and from Margaret Olsen (Ricklefs) Somerville to various family members. She typed almost all of her letters and kept carbon copies, so the files are essentially both sides of the correspondence.

Box 1
*From Margaret Olsen (Ricklefs) to parents/family (Stanford years) 1924-1928*

Box 1
*From Margaret Olsen (Ricklefs) to parents/family 1931-1932*

Box 1
*From Margaret Olsen (Ricklefs) to daughter, Cynthia (while Cynthia was at Stanford) 1946-1950*

Box 1
*From Margaret Olsen (Ricklefs) to daughter, Cynthia 1953-1954*

Box 1
*From Margaret Olsen (Ricklefs) to second husband, Marshall Somerville*

Box 1
*From Margaret Olsen (Ricklefs) to grand-daughter, Lucinda Mercer (while Lucinda was at Stanford) 1974-1979*

Box 1
*From Margaret Olsen (Ricklefs) to grand-daughter, Lucinda Mercer, later after 1979*
### Box 1
- From Margaret Olsen (Ricklefs) to grand-daughter, Annette Mercer (while Annette was at UC San Diego) 1977-1981
- From Margaret Olsen (Ricklefs) to grand-daughter, Annette Mercer, later after 1981
- Letters from various Stanford friends
- “932 Chronicles” (old letters from her long-time home in Los Angeles)

### Box 2
- **Geneva Matthews Olsen’s diaries 1932-1952**
  - **Scope and Contents**
  - Geneva Matthews Olsen’s diaries from 1932-1952. Largely daily life recording appointments, meetings, events. Many entries are descriptive. Some comments on current events.

### Box 2
- **George Fredric Olsen and Geneva Matthews notebooks 1902-1903**
  - **Scope and Contents**
  - Two notebooks from about 1902-1903 in which George Fredric Olsen and Geneva Matthews wrote notes to each other while in college.

### Box 3
- **Margaret Olsen (Ricklefs) Somerville’s diaries 1948; 1952-1983**
  - **Scope and Contents**
  - Margaret Olsen (Ricklefs) Somerville’s diaries from 1948 and from 1952-1983. Also diary summaries and an address book.

### Box 4
- **Letters from Margaret Olsen (Ricklefs) to her parents, George Fredric Olsen, Sr. and Geneva 1928-1933**
- **Letters from George Fredric Olsen, Sr. to Geneva, also a few to Margaret Olsen as a baby 1905-1914; 1936; 1937; 1953**
- **Letters between Clarence Ricklefs and his grand-daughter, Lucinda Mercer**
- **George Fredric Olsen Jr.’s letters, clippings, and other memorabilia 1943-1944**
  - **Scope and Contents**
  - Includes letters written while in the War Office, approximately 1943-1944. Also information relating to his work with Lane Drugs.
- **Information about James Ricklefs (cousin to Clarence)**
Richard Ricklefs letters and estate documents

Clarence Ricklefs letters to Cynthia and Robert Mercer 1923

Scope and Contents

Includes diary, notes from his last years at the Jewish Home for the Aged in San Francisco.

Family trip memories 1951-1979

Margaret Olsen (Ricklefs) stories and essays (possibly college era)

Margaret Olsen (Ricklefs) legal

Scope and Contents

Divorce, old estate issues, letters relating to the involuntary commitment of Marshall Somerville’s first wife, Hallie Keating.

Family History - Perkins

Family History - Sullins and Matthews

Letters to and from Geneva Matthews Olsen and George Fredric Olsen, Sr.

George Fredric Olsen, Sr. Clippings and other memorabilia

Framed certificate on the 50th anniversary of George Fredric Olsen’s graduation from Purdue

Stanford Lit (3 bound volumes) 1925-1928

Scope and Contents

Margaret Olsen was the Editor in her senior year (1927-28) and many of her friends wrote for the Lit.

Additional Papers Accession ARCH-2019-009
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box, Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6, Folder 1</td>
<td>Stanford 1974-1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6, Folder 1-2</td>
<td>SUNY Binghamton, MBA 1980-1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6, Folder 1-2</td>
<td>Summer Travel in Europe 1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6, Folder 3-4</td>
<td>Letters, cards, etc. Including Camille Cole (5/15/1990), Maia Cole (5/2/1992) 1984-1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7, Folder 1</td>
<td>Letters, emails, cards 1993-1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7, Folder 3</td>
<td>Letters, mostly email. 1998-1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7, Folder 5</td>
<td>Letters, mostly email. Most from England where Lucinda Mercer, Richard Cole &amp; daughters were on Sabbatical for a year). 2000-2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7, Folder 6</td>
<td>Emails, letters, cards. Ends with Camille Cole as a freshman at Pomona College. 2002-2008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Camille Cole to Robert & Cynthia Mercer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box, Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7, Folder 7</td>
<td>Emails and letters. 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>