

Illick Collection
2019-01

Scanning and Finding Aid by GFO Manuscripts Committee Volunteers



Manuscripts Committee
Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Inc.

2505 S.E. 11th Ave., Suite B-18
Portland, Oregon 97202-1061

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Contact Info: manuscripts@gfo.org

Summary

Title: Illick Collection

Accession Number: 2019-01

Creators: John Theron Illick (1888-1966) and Bernice (Rowland) Illick (1890-1973)

Extent: 3 boxes consisting of 93 files (12,440 pages)

Language: English

Abstract: The Illick Collection consists of the compiled records of John Theron Illick and his wife Bernice Rowland. The bulk of the collection is correspondence between the Illicks and family members dating from the early to mid-1900s. There are also several photo albums and some genealogical information.

The Illicks spent many years as missionaries and teachers in China. They thought of China as their home until 1937. Much of their correspondence reflects their daily lives and that of their families in Pennsylvania and New York. However, the time in China included periods of upheaval, and these are also reflected in their letters. The photos in the collection include four generations of family members. There are also photos of their homes, schools, colleagues, and students in China. The genealogical information traces branches of the family back to England. At least one ancestor served in the Revolutionary War.

Administrative Information

Provenance: The digital images of the Illick Collection were acquired by the Genealogical Forum of Oregon in 2019.

Retention and Access: Scanned images of the collection are currently retained by the GFO Manuscripts Committee in three separate digital storage locations and can be accessed at the GFO library or by contacting manuscripts@gfo.org. Some of the original papers and photos have been distributed among family members. Others were donated to the archives of the United Methodist Church (www.gcah.org).

Copyright Status: The status of copyright of the unpublished writings and research papers of the Illick Collection is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Biographical Note

John Theron Illick was born on 3 December 1888 in Cherry Valley, Butler County, Pennsylvania. His parents were Hiram James and Helen (Kunzman) Illick. He studied science with a focus on zoology at Syracuse University in New York, earning an M.A. in 1913. It was there that Theron met Bernice Loie Rowland, who was born 24 January 1890 in Holmesburg, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Her parents were Charles William and Clara (Lindsey) Rowland. Theron and Bernice married on 24 August 1916. Soon after, they moved to China where Theron worked at various universities. Bernice wrote that “1929-36 were the most normal years of our lives—living in one home with our three children attending the American School.” The

family returned to New York in 1937. They remained there until 1954 when they returned to China to help start University programs in the sciences. They retired in 1959 and settled in Modesto, Stanislaus County, California. Theron died there on 27 September 1966. Bernice died on 17 August 1973.

Finding Aid

| Box | File | Description | Prominent Surnames | Locations | Pages |
|-----|---------|--|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| 1 | 1-1890 | Birth certificate, photo | (Bernice) Rowland | Pennsylvania | 3 |
| 1 | 2-1903 | Travel notes, "Facts from Foreign Mission Fields: China" | | New York, New Jersey, China | 32 |
| 1 | 3-1904 | Correspondence | | | 12 |
| 1 | 4-1908 | Biographical sketch of Bernice Rowland, photos, correspondence | Rowland | Pennsylvania | 16 |
| 1 | 5-1909 | Correspondence | | New York | 4 |
| 1 | 6-1910 | Correspondence | Rowland | New York | 41 |
| 1 | 7-1911 | Correspondence, booklet "Fellowship of Methodist Pacifists" | Riggs, Rowland | Turkey, New York | 20 |
| 1 | 8-1912 | Correspondence, photo | Rowland | New York, Massachusetts | 81 |
| 1 | 9-1913 | Correspondence | Rowland | | 73 |
| 1 | 10-1914 | Correspondence | Rowland | | 73 |
| 1 | 11-1915 | Correspondence | Rowland, Illick | New York, West Virginia, China | 166 |
| 1 | 12-1916 | Correspondence | Rowland, Illick | Pennsylvania | 940 |
| 1 | 13-1917 | Correspondence | Rowland, Illick | China | 1149 |
| 1 | 14-1918 | Correspondence | Rowland, Illick | China | 221 |
| 1 | 15-1919 | Correspondence | Rowland, Illick | China, New York | 498 |
| 1 | 16-1920 | Correspondence | Rowland, Illick | China | 223 |
| 1 | 17-1920 | Correspondence - Letters from "Mother Rowland" | Rowland, Illick | | 274 |
| 1 | 18-1921 | Correspondence - Letters from "Mother Rowland" | Rowland, Illick | | 265 |
| 1 | 19-1921 | Correspondence | Rowland, Illick | China | 262 |
| 1 | 20-1922 | Correspondence - Letters from "Mother Rowland" | Rowland, Illick | | 112 |
| 1 | 21-1922 | Household account book, correspondence, newspaper clippings | Rowland, Illick | China, New York | 266 |

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|---|---------|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1 | 22-1923 | Photo, correspondence | Illick, Rowland | China | 279 |
| 1 | 23-1924 | Correspondence - Letters from "Mother Rowland," newspaper clippings | Illick, Rowland | New York, Massachusetts | 426 |
| 1 | 24-1924 | Correspondence | Illick | China | 287 |
| 1 | 25-1925 | Correspondence | Rowland | New York | 168 |
| 1 | 26-1925 | Tribute, correspondence | Illick, Rowland | China | 247 |
| 1 | 27-1926 | Correspondence (personal and professional), "The Nanking Bulletin..." | Illick, Rowland | New York, China | 651 |
| 1 | 28-1927 | Correspondence (personal and professional), "The Nanking Bulletin...", US Navy Logbook for the ships Isabel and William B. Preston in Nanking China, report and personal account on the 1927 Nanking incident, news clippings | Illick, Rowland, Hummel | China` | 450 |
| 1 | 29-1928 | Copies of "Woman's Missionary Friend," correspondence | Illick, Rowland | New York, Pennsylvania | 124 |
| 1 | 30-1929 | News clippings, correspondence (personal and professional) | Illick, Rowland | China, New York | 194 |
| 1 | 31-1930 | Correspondence (personal and professional) | Illick, Rowland | China | 192 |
| 1 | 32-1931 | Correspondence | Illick, Rowland | | 267 |
| 1 | 33-1932 | Correspondence (personal and professional) | Illick, Rowland | China | 425 |
| 1 | 34-1933 | News clippings, correspondence | Illick, Rowland | China, New York | 130 |
| 1 | 35-1934 | Clippings, correspondence | Illick, Rowland | China, New York | 265 |
| 1 | 36-1935 | Correspondence | Illick, Rowland | China, New York | 185 |
| 1 | 37-1936 | Correspondence, momentos | Illick, Rowland | China, New York, Germany | 218 |
| 1 | 38-1937 | Correspondence, alien resident certificates | Illick, Rowland | China, California, New York | 117 |
| 1 | 39-1938 | Correspondence, articles | Illick, Rowland | California, New York, China | 127 |
| 1 | 40-1939 | Newsletter | Smythe | China | 6 |

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|---|---------|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----|
| 1 | 41-1940 | Newsletters, news clippings, correspondence | Smythe, Illick, Rowland | China, New York | 18 |
| 1 | 42-1941 | Newsletter, correspondence | | China, New York | 27 |
| 1 | 43-1942 | Correspondence | | New York | 24 |
| 1 | 44-1943 | Articles, correspondence | | New York | 63 |
| 1 | 45-1945 | Newsletter, correspondence | | China, New York | 12 |
| 1 | 46-1946 | Correspondence | Illick | China, New York | 7 |
| 1 | 47-1948 | Correspondence, news clippings, diary | Illick | China, New York | 79 |
| 1 | 48-1949 | Correspondence | Illick | New York | 8 |
| 1 | 49-1950 | Correspondence | Illick | New York, China | 7 |
| 1 | 50-1952 | Correspondence | Illick | Michigan, New York | 9 |
| 1 | 51-1954 | News clipping, resume of J Theron Illick, correspondence | Illick | | 21 |
| 1 | 52-1955 | Correspondence | Illick | New York, California | 10 |
| 1 | 53-1956 | Correspondence | Illick | China, California, New York | 89 |
| 1 | 54-1957 | Correspondence | Illick | China, California | 52 |
| 1 | 55-1958 | Correspondence | Illick | China, California | 44 |
| 1 | 56-1959 | Correspondence | Illick | China, California | 14 |
| 1 | 57-1960 | Notes | Illick | New York, China | 6 |
| 1 | 58-1962 | Correspondence | | | 3 |
| 1 | 59-1963 | Article "Dialogos" | McNeur | | 9 |
| 1 | 60-1964 | Autobiographical sketch by Bernice Rowland Illick, correspondence | Rowland, Lindsey, Illick | California, New York | 42 |
| 1 | 61-1966 | Correspondence, 50th-anniversary article, condolence letters re death of Theron Illick, obituaries | Illick | New York, California | 67 |
| 1 | 62-1967 | Correspondence, memoriams | Illick | California | 26 |
| 1 | 63 | Correspondence | Illick, Hummel | California, China | 72 |

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|---|----|---|------------------------|---------------------------------|-----|
| 1 | 64 | Baby book for John Theron Illick (born 1921), childhood mementos, copies of "Woman's Missionary Friend," hospital bulletins, "China Christian Advocate" from 1936, "Nanking Woman's Club" programs, diary of John Theron Illick dated 1911, notepad dated 1912-1916, ledger dated 1915-1916 | Illick, Rowland | China, Pennsylvania | 394 |
| 1 | 65 | School record, articles by J. Theron Illick | Illick | New York | 133 |
| 1 | 66 | Memorial booklet for Lin Sen dated 1943, articles about China, ledger dated 1934, notebook/diary dated 1919-1924 | Illick | China, New York | 188 |
| 1 | 67 | Booklet "A Day-or More in Nanking China" | | China | 16 |
| 1 | 68 | School record, articles by J. Theron Illick | Illick | New York | 230 |
| 2 | 1 | Descendant and pedigree charts, school records, obituary, historical notes, news clippings, transcript of will if Christopher Illick dated 1818, copy of Illick Bible pages, copies of tombstone photos | Illick, Rowland, Huber | Germany, Pennsylvania, New York | 85 |
| 2 | 2 | "Lineage of Hans Rudolf Illig (Illick)," pedigree chart, notes | Illick, Illig, Laubach | Germany, Pennsylvania | 15 |
| 2 | 3 | Rowland family tree, cemetery records | Rowland, Sheppard | England, Pennsylvania | 12 |
| 2 | 4 | Pedigree chart, autobiographical sketch by Bernice Rowland, DAR application, historical notes, correspondence | Rowland, Lindsey | England, Pennsylvania | 48 |

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|---|----|--|-----------------|---|-----|
| 2 | 5 | "Those Golden Years" booklet - biography of J. Theron Illick | Illick | | 4 |
| 3 | 1 | Family photo album, labeled and dated 1921- 1949. Includes photos of university students and faculty in Nanking, friends, and colleagues in China, photos of buildings and landscapes | Rowland, Illick | China, Pennsylvania, Ohio | 69 |
| 3 | 2 | Notated photos of Nanking, schools, students | | China | 49 |
| 3 | 3 | Notated family photos dated 1934, correspondence | Illick, Rowland | China | 21 |
| 3 | 4 | Civilian Public Service photos, many with names, dated 1945-1947 | Illick | Oregon | 62 |
| 3 | 5 | Family photos | Rowland | | 41 |
| 3 | 6 | Notated photos of China | Illick | China | 96 |
| 3 | 7 | Family photos dating from the late 1800s, most noted with names and dates | Illick | Pennsylvania | 78 |
| 3 | 8 | Family photos, most labeled with names and dates 1916-1965 | Illick, Rowland | Pennsylvania, New York, China | 101 |
| 3 | 9 | Family photos dating from the 1930s to the 1970s, photos of groups and students from schools in China | Illick | | 70 |
| 3 | 10 | Postcards from Japan, undated | | Japan | 16 |
| 3 | 11 | Family photos dating from the late 1800s-1950s, most labeled with names and dates, some photos from China | Illick | California, Pennsylvania, New York, Oregon, China | 43 |

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| 3 | 12 | Undated photos of Nanking | | China | 10 |
| 3 | 13 | Photo book of Peking dated 1935 | | China | 66 |
| 3 | 14 | Photos of areas in and around Holmesburg, Pennsylvania, some dated 1901-1902 | Rowland | Pennsylvania | 18 |
| 3 | 15 | Photos of trip including Shanghai, Europe, and New York, dated 1936 | Illick | | 43 |
| 3 | 16 | Undated postcards of Taiwan | | | 23 |
| 3 | 17 | Family photos dated from 1916-1922 | Illick, Rowland, Rowe | West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, China | 120 |
| 3 | 18 | Notated family and travel photos, 1911-1914 | Illick | New York | 67 |
| 3 | 19 | Notated family and travel photos, 1914-1916 | Illick | New York | 92 |
| 3 | 20 | Photos from Peking dated 1935 | Illick | China | 44 |
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