

Descriptive Summary:

Creator:	Kate Friend
Title:	Kate Harrison Friend Papers
Inclusive Dates:	1898-1950
Bulk Dates:	1899-1940
Abstract:	The Kate Harrison Friend Papers consists of correspondence, literary manuscripts, scrapbooks, and photographs. The majority of the letters were to Kate Harrison Friend, philanthropist of Waco.
Accession #:	0202
Extent:	0.90 linear feet (2 boxes)
Language:	Collection is in English.
Repository:	The Texas Collection, Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

Biographical Note:

Kate Harrison Friend was an influential figure in Waco history during the early twentieth century. She was committed to the betterment of society through the education of children and the improved treatment of animals.

Friend was born in 1856 to Nathaniel and Arimenta (Harrison) in Boligee, Alabama. After the death of her father, Friend and her mother visited Waco, Texas, in 1885 and made it their permanent residence. Friend displayed an early commitment and interest in education. Upon her arrival to Waco, she and her mother opened a private school in their home. "Miss Kate," as she was known in the community, put her education and writing skills to use by becoming the editor of *Artesia*, a local newspaper dedicated to Waco's social scene. Later, she was hired as the Society Editor for the *Waco Times-Herald*.

In 1897, Friend's devotion to education led her to develop a junior Shakespeare class to study the writings of William Shakespeare. The success of the class led to the creation of the Waco Shakespeare Club in 1899, and it was recognized nationally after only one year of operation, in 1900. The same year, Friend's dedication to Shakespeare led to her participation in a writing competition sponsored by the National Shakespeare Association. She won the grand prize of a trip to Stratford-upon-Avon. Upon her return, Friend published pamphlets on Shakespeare and the success of her writings led to her international recognition as a Shakespeare scholar.

Friend was an advocate for the better treatment of animals and saw a need in Waco for a well-organized animal shelter. She began a campaign for animal rights in 1902 and worked closely with the Waco Humane Society for forty-five years. Friend's dedication to the humane treatment of animals won her a grant from Mrs. M. D. Ravenscroft of Santa Barbara, to build the Waco Animal Shelter. Additionally, Friend used her role within the Waco Humane Society to improve the treatment of women and children in the community. In 1926, Friend's efforts led to the creation of a Human Agent position in the society whose purpose was to advocate for the neglected women, children, and animals of Waco.

Kate Friend served as the president of the Waco Federation, held a board position for the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs from 1904-1936, and was editor of the *Texas Federation News*. Her involvement with the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs led to increased support for drinking fountains in public schools and improvements in city

parks. In fact, Friend's support of city parks led to the donation of land from the William Cameron Family, which became Cameron Park. During World War II, she served as president of the Waco Women's War Service Club. Kate Harrison Friend died on May 14, 1949, at the age of ninety-three.

Sources:

Kelley, Dayton, ed. *The Handbook of Waco and McLennan County, Texas*. Waco: Texian Press, 1972.

Seaholm, Megan. "Friend, Kate Harrison." *Handbook of Texas Online*.

<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/ffr22>. Accessed 2012 March 7.

Wallace, Patricia Ward. *A Spirit So Rare: A History of the Women of Waco*. Austin: Nortex Press, 1984.

Winegarten, Ruthe, ed. *Finder's Guide to the Texas Women: A Celebration of History Exhibit Archives*. Denton: Texas Woman's University, 1984.

Scope and Content:

The Kate Harrison Friend Papers were acquired by gift and purchase in two separate transactions from private donors. The first gift was given by W. M. Morrison at an unknown time. The second transaction was a purchase by The Texas Collection from Mrs. P.F. Boyer in 1973 August 31.

The collection begins in 1898 and ends in 1951. Records include correspondence, literary productions, scrapbooks, and photographic materials. The correspondence is exclusively letters written to Kate Harrison Friend. These letters provide insight about her vast involvement in varying activities in Texas. The literary production series describes Friend's involvement in society as a whole through clipping and notes. Included are three literary outline studies of William Shakespeare's plays, *Coriolanus*, *King Lear*, and *Taming of the Shrew*. The scrapbook series includes five books that have been compiled by Friend. Although the scrapbooks are in fair condition, each contains letters received by Friend from admirers, and insight on Friend's interests and activities. The papers also include three matching photographs of Friend.

Organization and Arrangement:

This collection was processed prior to this finding aid. The collection was originally organized in five series: I. Correspondence, II. Literary Production, III. Photographs, IV. Collected Materials, and V. Miscellaneous.

Currently, The Kate Harrison Friend Papers are arranged in four series: I. Correspondence, II. Literary Productions, III. Scrapbooks, and IV. Photographs.

Restrictions: The collection is open for research.

Literary Rights Statement:

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Index Terms:

- Friend, Kate Harrison, 1856-1949.
- Shakespeare, William (1564-1616).
- Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616 -- Outlines, syllabi, etc.
- Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616 -- Study and teaching -- United States.
- Texas Federation of Women’s Clubs -- History.
- Waco (Tex.) -- History
- Women social reformers – Texas.

Related Materials: None.

Separated Materials: None.

Custodial History:

Acquisition:	Collection was acquired by gift and purchase in two separate transactions from private donors in 1973 and an unknown time.
Citation:	Gift by W. M. Morrison, unknown time. Purchase from Mrs. P.F. Boyer, 1973. Kate Harrison Friend Papers, Accession #0202, Box #, Folder #, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.

Processing Information: Finding aid completed by Amy Lynn Stell, 2012 March 21.

Container List:

Series I. Correspondence, 1899-1951, undated, 8 folders.

This series contains letters written to Kate Harrison Friend. The majority of the content of the letters pertains to Friend’s literary outlines of three Shakespearean plays, *Coriolanus*, *King Lear*, and *Taming of the Shrew*, requests for copies of her written works, and thank you notes for her speaking engagements. The letters are mostly from admirers of Friend’s involvement with the Shakespeare Club and her work for the rights of women, children, and animals within the Waco community and McLennan County. This series is in average to good condition.

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
1	1	Correspondence	1899-1902

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
1	2	Correspondence	1903-1907
	3	Correspondence	1908-1911
	4	Correspondence	1915-1917
	5	Correspondence	1918
	6	Correspondence	1919-1921, 1936, 1941, 1949-1951, undated
	7	Correspondence (1 of 2)	undated
	8	Correspondence (2 of 2)	undated

Series II. Literary Productions 1855, 1899-1950, undated, 10 folders.

These literary productions include clippings related to Kate Harrison Friends' speaking engagements, awards, celebrations on her behalf, her involvement with the Shakespeare Club, Texas Federation of Women's Clubs, the Waco Humane Society, and her death. Additionally, this series includes general notes written by Friend, minutes for the Women's Club in Waco, and programs related to Texas Federation of Women's Clubs conventions. Three outline studies written by Friend of Shakespeare's plays *Coriolanus*, *King Lear*, and *Taming of the Shrew* are included. This series is in good condition.

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
1	9	Literary Productions: Clippings	1899-1901, 1904, 1910, 1916, 1928, 1940, 1944
	10	Literary Productions: Clippings	1949-1950, undated
	11	Literary Productions: Clippings (1 of 2)	undated
	12	Literary Productions: Clippings (2 of 2)	undated
	13	Literary Productions: Notes	undated
	14	Literary Productions: Outline Studies	undated
	15	Literary Productions: Programs (1 of 2)	undated
	16	Literary Productions: Programs (2 of 2)	undated
	17	Literary Productions: Minutes: Texas Federation of Women's Clubs	1950
	18	Literary Productions: Book: Shakespeare Writings	1855

Series III. Scrapbooks, 1898-1941, 7 folders.

This series includes five scrapbooks that were compiled by Kate Harrison Friend. The scrapbooks contain clippings related to Friend's activities, letters and notes written to Friend, invitations to Friend, and pamphlets related to engagements for the Shakespeare Club. This series is in fair to average condition.

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
2	1	Scrapbook	1898-1900
	2	Scrapbook (1 of 2)	1900-1909, 1930, 1941
	3	Scrapbook (2 of 2)	1900-1909, 1930, 1941
	4	Scrapbook	1901-1903
	5	Scrapbook (1 of 2)	1903-1904, 1906, 1913, 1915, 1931
	6	Scrapbook (2 of 2)	1903-1904, 1906, 1913, 1915, 1931
	7	Scrapbook	1911-1915

Series IV. Photographs, 1899-1900, 2 folders.

This series includes three matted photographs of Kate Harrison Friend. This series is in good condition.

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
2	8	Photographs	1899
	9	Photographs	1900