

Anna Persson Cave family papers, 1897-2006

Size: 3 linear feet, 5 boxes

Acquisition: Donated to SSIRC in 2006.

Access: The collection is open for research. A limited amount of photocopies may be requested via mail.

Processed by: Lisa Huntsha, 2013

Control Num.: SSIRC MSS P:329

Biographical Sketch

Anna Persson was one of nine children born to Carl Gustaf Persson and Severina Gunnarsson in Halmstad, Sweden on December 9, 1887. Three of Carl Gustaf Persson's children immigrated to Bloomington, Illinois. Ida Persson immigrated in 1898, Anna Persson in 1907, and Sigrid Persson in 1908.

In 1908, when Sigrid left Bloomington and moved to New York City to marry she took Anna with her. Anna began working as a maid in New York City and when her employer moved to Vermont, she went too. In the summer of 1913 in Brattleboro, Vermont, Anna meet Frederick Cave, an Englishman and a gardener on an estate. They fell in love and were married in Boston, Massachusetts on February 28, 1914. After they married they moved to Littleton, New Hampshire, and then to Canton, Massachusetts. Daughter Eleanor Cave was born on April 25, 1918 and son Eric Cave on September 24, 1919.

In December 1919, the family went to England to meet grandmother Cave. In March 1920, Frederick Cave returned to Canton, Massachusetts, while Anna and the children went on to Sweden to visit Anna's family. They stayed until August of 1920. Upon their return to Canton, they found that Frederick had terminal cancer; he died on December 19, 1921. Anna Persson Cave was 34 and took in sewing to support her young family.

Eleanor Cave married Dexter C. Hatch. They had no children. Eleanor regularly corresponded with family in Sweden and compiled genealogical information. This information is also included in this collection.

Anna Persson Cave died on January 30, 1959. Eleanor Cave Hatch died on November 14, 2006.

Scope and Content Note

The main focus of the collection is correspondence: between Anna and Frederick during their courtship and their time apart during travel abroad; between Anna Persson and friends and family; and between Eleanor Cave Hatch and family members. Also included are family photographs, scrapbooks, Anna Persson's school notebooks and report cards, Anna's passports, and genealogy information compiled by Eleanor Cave Hatch.

Also included in the collection are samples of sewing that Anna would send to prospective clients. There is also the first letter Anna Persson wrote to her family in Sweden after arriving in the United States (along with an English translation).

Subjects

Cave, Anna Persson (1887-1959)

Hatch, Eleanor Cave (1918-2006)

Textile crafts

Fiber work

Swedish American art

Art

Crafts

Sewing

Correspondence

Immigration

Language

Swedish and English

Folder inventory

Box 1, folders 1-14

Family Tree, report cards, and correspondence

1. Family Tree and content note from donor
2. Anna Persson Cave's Folkskola Report Cards, 1897-1901
3. Letter from Anna Persson to family in Sweden after arriving in the United States
4. Letters from Frederick Cave to Anna Persson, 1913
5. Letters from Frederick Cave to Anna Persson, 1913
6. Letters from Frederick Cave to Anna Persson, 1913
7. Letters from Anna Persson to Frederick Cave, 1914
8. Letters from Frederick Cave to Anna Persson, 1915-1916
9. Letters from Frederick Cave to Anna Persson, 1917-1918
10. Letters from Frederick Cave to Anna Persson, 1919-1920
11. Letters from Frederick Cave to Anna Persson, 1920
12. Letters from Anna Persson to Frederick Cave, 1920
13. Letters from Gerda Persson to Anna Persson Cave, 1957-1958
14. Letters from Stina Persson to Anna Persson Cave, 1921-1976

Box 2, folders 15-26

Correspondence

15. Letters to Anna Persson Cave from family, 1926-1950s
16. Postcards to Anna Persson Cave from various friends and family
17. Letters to Eleanor Cave Hatch from Gerda Persson, 1929-1959
18. Letters to Eleanor Cave Hatch from Stina Persson, 1930-1959
19. Letters to Eleanor Cave Hatch from Stina Persson, 1960-1969
20. Letters to Eleanor Cave Hatch from Stina Persson, 1970-1974
21. Letters to Eleanor Cave Hatch from Stina Persson, 1975-1979
22. Letters to Eleanor Cave Hatch from Stina Persson, 1980-1986
23. Letters to Eleanor Cave Hatch from Anna Margret Borjesson, 1953-1956
24. Letters to Eleanor Cave Hatch from Eddie and Judy Borjesson, 1960-2002
25. Letter to Eleanor Cave Hatch from Sigrid Borjesson
26. Letters to Eleanor Cave Hatch from Margaret and Cyrus Jones, 1954-1999

Box 3, folders 27-46

Correspondence and genealogy information

27. Letters to Eleanor Cave Hatch from Eric Cave's family, 1989-2006
28. Letters to Eleanor Cave Hatch from Brita and Kurt Thomasson
29. Letters to Eleanor Cave Hatch from Carl and Anitha Persson, 1951-1998
30. Letters to Eleanor Cave Hatch from Karin Persson, 1953-1986
31. Letters to Eleanor Cave Hatch from Karin Persson, 1987-1989
32. Letters to Eleanor Cave Hatch from Karin Persson, 1990-2004
33. Letters to Eleanor Cave Hatch from Karin Persson, unknown years
34. Letters to Eleanor Cave Hatch from Christina and Kurt Webing, 1986-2000
35. Letters to Eleanor Cave Hatch from Trisha Wynn, 1986-1987
36. Misc. letters and papers of Anna Persson and Eleanor Cave Hatch
37. General family genealogy
38. Genealogy notes – Carl Gustaf Persson
39. Genealogy notes – Wallberg (Carl Gustaf Persson's brothers' assumed name)
40. Genealogy notes – Ida (Persson) Carlson
41. Genealogy notes – Hugo Persson
42. Genealogy notes – Anna Eleonora Persson Cave
43. Genealogy notes – Frederick Cave
44. Genealogy notes – Hilding Persson
45. Genealogy notes – Erik Persson
46. Genealogy notes – folder titled "Original Genealogic data from Karin Persson"

Box 4

Photographs, scrapbooks, passports, and notebooks

- 1-91 photographs
- 4 collectable snapshot folders (London, Kronborg, Visby, Frederiksborg)
- 2 scrapbooks
- 3 school notebooks of Anna Persson
- 2 passports of Anna Persson Cave

Box 5

Sewing and textiles

- Sewing examples from Anna Persson Cave