

**The Filson Historical Society**

**Mary Newcomb, 1895-1949?  
Collection, 1901-1935 (bulk 1930-1935)**

For information regarding literary and copyright interest for these papers, see the Curator of  
Special Collections, James J. Holmberg

**Size of Collection:**

1 cubic foot

**Location Number:**

Mss./A/N538

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**Scope and Content Note**

Papers of folk song collector Mary Newcomb. Correspondence consists of personal letters as well as others related to her trying to publish "Songs My Mother Sang," her trying to find a job in the Civil Service, and her finances. Lyrics to a large number of the songs she collected and her genealogy are also included. Collection contains her notes from classes at Nazareth College and St. Helena's Commercial College, numerous drawings, and printed material, including published articles by Newcomb, songbooks and sheet music, and newspaper clippings.

Her pitch-pipe was transferred to The Filson Museum.

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**Biographical Note**

Mary Newcomb was born in Nelson County, Kentucky in 1895. As an adult, Newcomb collected folk songs, and in the late 1920s and early 1930s, she attempted to publish a collection of them called, "Songs My Mother Sang." Her manuscript appears to never have been published, and a copy of it is available at The Filson as the Mary Newcomb Miscellaneous Papers (Mss./C/N). Newcomb held several positions in the United States Civil Service, and in the early 1930s attended Nazareth College and St. Helena's Commercial College. It is believed that she died around 1949.

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**Folder List**

Folder 1: Personal Correspondence, 1927-1931  
Folder 2: Personal Correspondence, 1932-1935, no date  
Folder 3: Music Correspondence, 1928-1931  
Folder 4: Music Correspondence, 1932-1933  
Folder 5: Employment Correspondence, 1918-1926  
Folder 6: Employment Correspondence, 1929-1933  
Folder 7: Financial Correspondence  
Folder 8: Kentucky Folk Songs, Book I  
Folder 9: Kentucky Folk Songs, Book II  
Folder 10: Folk Song Lyrics, A-H  
Folder 11: Folk Song Lyrics, I-R  
Folder 12: Folk Song Lyrics, S-Z, untitled  
Folder 13: Folk Songs and Stories  
Folder 14: Genealogy of the Abell, Craven, Masterson, Miller, Newcomb, Pierceall Families  
Folder 15: Abell Genealogy  
Folder 16: Genealogy  
Folder 17: Play – “The Red Bear”  
Folder 18: Music Notes – Nazareth College  
Folder 19: English Literature Notes – Nazareth College  
Folder 20: English Literature Notes – St. Helena’s Commercial College  
Folder 21: Miscellaneous Writings  
Folder 22: Drawings  
Folder 23: Miscellaneous  
Folder 24: Bank passbooks  
Folder 25: *The Pelican* (Vol. 5, No. 1)  
Folder 26: *St. Teresa Herald* (February 1935)  
Folder 27: Bradley Kincaid Songbooks  
Folder 28: Folk Songbooks  
Folder 29: Songbooks  
Folder 30: Sheet Music  
Folder 31: *Practical Method for the Pianoforte*, Vol. 1  
Folder 32: Newspaper clippings

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**Subject Headings**

Abell family - Genealogy  
Allison, Young Ewing, 1853-1932  
Birth control - Attitudes  
Civil service - United States - Employees  
Emmett, Daniel Decatur, 1815-1904. Dixie  
Folk songs - United States  
Hays, Will. S. (William Shakespeare), 1837-1907  
Kincaid, Bradley  
La Bree, Ben (Benjamin)  
Nativism  
Newcomb family - Genealogy  
Newcomb, Mary, 1895-1949?