

**The Filson Historical Society**

**Chowning, Hugh MacLachlan, 1913-1974  
Papers, 1943-1947**

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

**Size of Collection:**

1 cu. ft.

**Location Number:**

Ms. A C552

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**Scope and Content Note**

This collection primarily consists of correspondence and photographs sent from Hugh Chowning to his mother and twin sister during World War II while stationed in north Africa, France, Italy and Germany with the U.S. Army. The correspondence includes handwritten letters, V-mail, and limited photographs and real photo postcards.

Chowning wrote of his experiences during the war and inquired about happenings in Louisville, Kentucky, where his family resided. Chowning often wrote of going to various Officer's Clubs, seeing films, and the general conditions of military life. When able due to censorship constraints, Chowning mentions where he is and what work he has been doing for the military.

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**Biographical Note**

Hugh MacLachlan “Mac” Chowning was born in Shelby County, Kentucky on July 17, 1913 to George Smith Chowning and Bell Chowning (née Mapes). He had a twin sister, Mildred, who married James Clark III in 1934.

Chowning enlisted in the army November 28, 1941. He appears to have initially served with Battery E, 90<sup>th</sup> Coast Artillery (Anti-Aircraft regiment) in Northern Africa. His letters indicate that he spent some time in Casablanca during the war. After leaving northern Africa around October 1944, his unit appears to have travelled throughout Europe including Italy, France, and Germany. In December 1944, he was promoted to Captain, and by that time was associated with the 4379<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Truck Company. He was discharged from the Army on February 27, 1946.

In 1948, he married Marion Elizabeth Coleman, with whom he had two daughters. He died July 6, 1974 in Louisville, Kentucky.

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**Folder List**

**Box 1**

- Folder 1: Portrait photographs of Chowning family members, ca.1940-1947
- Folder 2: Correspondence, March 1943
- Folder 3: Correspondence, April 1943
- Folder 4: Correspondence, May 1943
- Folder 5: Correspondence, June 1943
- Folder 6: Correspondence, July 1943
- Folder 7: Correspondence, August 1943
- Folder 8: Correspondence, September 1943
- Folder 9: Correspondence and photograph, October 1943
- Folder 10: Correspondence, November 1943
- Folder 11: Correspondence, December 1943
- Folder 12: Correspondence, January 1944
- Folder 13: Correspondence, February 1944
- Folder 14: Correspondence, March 1944
- Folder 15: Correspondence, April 1944
- Folder 16: Correspondence, clippings and photographs, May 1944
- Folder 17: Correspondence and photographs, June 1944
- Folder 18: Correspondence, July 1944
- Folder 19: Correspondence, August 1944
- Folder 20: Correspondence, September 1944
- Folder 21: Correspondence, October 1944
- Folder 22: Correspondence, November 1944
- Folder 23: Correspondence, December 1944
- Folder 24: Correspondence and real photo postcard, January 1945
- Folder 25: Correspondence, February 1945
- Folder 26: Correspondence, March 1945
- Folder 27: Correspondence, April 1945
- Folder 28: Correspondence and real photo postcards, May 1945
- Folder 29: Correspondence, June 1945
- Folder 30: Correspondence and booklet, July 1945
- Folder 31: Correspondence, August 1945
- Folder 32: Correspondence, September 1945
- Folder 33: Correspondence, October 1945
- Folder 34: Correspondence, November 1945
- Folder 35: Correspondence, undated

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**Subject Headings**

Atomic bomb.  
Berchtesgaden (Germany)  
Camp Shows, Inc.  
Chowning, Bell, 1888-1951.  
Clark, Mildred, b. 1913.  
Eisenhower, Dwight D. (Dwight David), 1890-1969.  
Gaulle, Charles de, 1890-1970.  
Louisville (Ky.)  
United States – Armed Forces – Officers.  
United States. Army. Coast Artillery Regiment, 90th. Battery E.  
United States. Army. Quartermaster Truck Company, 4379<sup>th</sup>.  
United States – Race relations.  
V-mail.  
World War, 1939-1945 – Africa.  
World War, 1939-1945 – Europe.  
World War, 1939-1945 – War work – Red Cross.