

Forest History Society



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Guide to the Alfred Cunningham Papers, 1910, 1931 - 1937, n.d.

Papers generated and collected by Alfred "Charlie" Cunningham, an American printer originally from Cadillac, Michigan, who attended the Biltmore Forest School in Asheville, North Carolina, in 1910. Includes correspondence from Cunningham to his sister while he was on a Biltmore Forest School field trip to Europe in 1910; correspondence written in the 1930s from German forester and former Biltmore Forest School director Carl Alwin Schenck (1868 - 1955) to Alfred Cunningham; an undated death announcement for Carl Schenck's first wife Adele; and a marriage announcement for Schenck and his second wife Marie-Louise printed in 1932.

2003

Guide to the Alfred Cunningham Papers, 1910, 1931 - 1937, n.d.

Descriptive Summary

Collection Title: The Alfred Cunningham Papers, 1910, 1931 - 1937, n.d.

Creator: Alfred Cunningham

Extent: 7 items in 1 file folder, less than 1 inch

Location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Forest History Society Archivist/Librarian, Cheryl Oakes (coakes@duke.edu)

Processed By: Michael Crotty

Date Completed: June, 2003

Encoded By: Michele A. Justice

Information for Users

Restrictions to Access: This collection is open for research.

Provenance: Unknown

Preferred Citation: [Identification of Item], Alfred Cunningham Papers, Library and Archives, Forest History Society, Durham, North Carolina.

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Processing Information: This finding aid includes hyperlinks to digital representations of each item comprising these papers. Electronic transcriptions of the materials were produced in Microsoft Word 2000. Embedded within the Word files at the end of each transcription are True Color scans of each item. Adobe Acrobat .pdf files were produced as the final output. The hyperlink "See Transcription" tags below link to the .pdf files.

Biographical Note

Alfred "Charlie" Cunningham's parents lived in Cadillac, Michigan, where the Biltmore Forest School conducted annual field trips during most of its years of operation from 1898 to 1913. The documents in this collection indicate Cunningham was a Biltmore Forest School student in 1910 who seemed to have given up forestry for a career as a printer in Denver, Colorado, by the early 1930s. No further biographical information about this individual is known.

Scope and Content Note

The Alfred Cunningham Papers contain correspondence and printed materials pertaining to Cunningham's experiences while on a Biltmore Forest School field trip to Europe in 1910, and

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relating to his ongoing friendship with German forester and former Biltmore Forest School Director Carl Alwin Schenck (1868 - 1955) in the 1930s. Most of the correspondence in this collection is from Carl Schenck to his former student and includes descriptions of Schenck's travels, home life, and forestry activities during the 1930s. Also included are printed notices about the death of Schenck's first wife and his subsequent marriage to a second wife.

Organization of Collection

The materials in this collection comprise three series: Correspondence (1910, 1931 - 1937); Adele Schenck Obituary Notice (n.d.); and Carl Schenck Marriage Notice (1932).

Online Catalog Headings

Biltmore Forest School -- History.
Biltmore Forest School -- Students.
Cunningham, Alfred.
Foresters -- United States -- Biography.
Schenck, Carl Alwin, 1868 - 1955.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Correspondence (1910, 1931 - 1937)

4 items

Scope and Content Note for Series I

Correspondence from Alfred Cunningham to his sister Kate while he was a student on a Biltmore Forest School field trip to Europe in 1910, and letters sent from German forester and former Biltmore Forest School director Carl Alwin Schenck (1868 - 1955) to his former student Alfred Cunningham in the 1930s. Materials in this series are arranged in chronological order.

Item 1: Cunningham Letter to Sister Kate (11 October 1910) [\[See Transcription\]](#)

Description: Letter written on Holland-America Line stationery sized 6 15/16" x 9 2/16" addressed to "Dear Sister Kate" from Alfred Cunningham. Cunningham penned the letter while traveling aboard the Holland-America Line's *S.S. New Amsterdam* ship en route to Europe with other Biltmore Forest School students for a field trip. In the letter Cunningham describes what his typical day on ship is like, mentions his health and the weather, and describes his interest in a female passenger who seems to prefer the attentions of fellow Biltmore Forest School student Jonathan Keith Esser.

Item 2: Schenck Letter to Cunningham (26 April 1931) [\[See Transcription\]](#)

Description: Letter written on Holland-America Line stationery sized 6 15/16" x 8 13/16" addressed to "My dear Charlie" from Carl Alwin Schenck penned aboard the Holland-America Line's *S.S. Statendam* ship. In the letter Schenck thanks Cunningham for his continued friendship and support even after Cunningham's change in profession from forester to printer.

Item 3: Schenck Christmas Letter (December 1934) [\[See Transcription\]](#)

Description: Four-page letter typed on paper sized 8 4/16" x 11 6/16" from Dr. Carl Schenck in Darmstadt, Germany, addressed to "Dear friends anywhere in [*sic*] notably in the USA." In the letter Schenck sends Christmas greetings and describes his work and leisure activities during the year 1934. Topics covered include: his and Mrs. Schenck's European travels; their hikes through German forests; game-watching, fishing, and hunting activities in Europe; Schenck's correspondence with forestry leaders in the United States during the year; and the saltless diet Dr. and Mrs. Schenck were on for much of the year.

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n.d.**

Item 4: Schenck Christmas Letter (December 1937) [\[See Transcription\]](#)

Description: Three-page Christmas letter typed on paper sized 8 4/16" x 11 6/16" penned in Lindenfels and Darmstadt, Germany, by Carl Schenck. The letter is addressed to "Dear friends anywhere and notably in America" and contains Schenck's wishes for a happy Christmas and new year and discusses such topics as: his and Mrs. Schenck's European travels during 1937; a trip he took to the Canadian Labrador which enabled him to renew forestry acquaintances made years before in Canada and the United States; and European forestry association meetings he attended and forestry lectures he gave during the year. The letter includes one paragraph on politics in which Schenck expresses approval for German dictator Adolf Hitler, concluding that "Hitler's regime has done, however and undeniably, more for good forestry and more for good game laws than what was done by all imperial and democratic governments before him." [p. 3, middle paragraph]

Series II: Adele Schenck Obituary Notice (n.d.)

2 items

Scope and Content Note for Series II

Undated note printed in German announcing the death of Adele Schenck (wife of German forester Dr. Carl Alwin Schenck); and one page of undated typed correspondence written by Dr. Schenck describing the circumstances surrounding her death.

Item 5: Notice Announcing Death of Adele Bopp Schenck (n.d.) [\[See Transcription\]](#)

Description: Notice printed on paper sized 5 4/16" x 6 12/16" in German announcing the death of Adele Bopp Schenck, first wife of Carl Alwin Schenck, on 14 August [year unknown].

Item 6: Letter Describing Adele Schenck's Demise (n.d.) [\[See Transcription\]](#)

Description: Typed letter written by Carl Schenck describing the circumstances that led to the death of his first wife, Adele Bopp Schenck, on 14 August [year unknown]. The letter is addressed "Dear friends in America: You will be anxious to know how the end came on August 14th." Dr. Schenck describes how his wife had been called from their home in Lindenfels, Germany, to her mother's bedside in Darmstadt, Germany, on 29 July to care for her after a long illness. While attending to her mother, Adele Schenck developed mumps. She was attended to by a home nurse for a couple of weeks prior to being admitted to a hospital in Darmstadt, where she died in the evening on 14 August. Her body was cremated on 17 August, and her ashes were interred in the family tomb at Lindenfels.

Series III: Carl Schenck Marriage Notice (1932)

1 item

Scope and Content Note for Series III

Printed notice announcing the second marriage of German forester and former Biltmore Forest School director Carl Alwin Schenck.

Item 7: Schenck Marriage Notice (10 April 1932) **[See Transcription]**

Description: Notice printed in Darmstadt, Germany, on paper sized 3 1/2" x 4 1/2" announcing the marriage of German forester Carl Alwin Schenck (1868 - 1955) to his second wife, Marie-Louise Kulenkampff-Post. Dated 10 April 1932, the notice states that the two married in Bremen a few days previously and that they plan to reside during the summer at the Schencks' summer place in Lindenfels-Odenwald, Germany, and during the fall and winter at a residence in Missoula, Montana.