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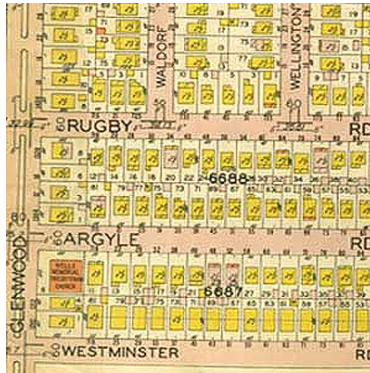
**2900 BEDFORD AVENUE  
BROOKLYN NEW YORK 11210**

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**Read Family Papers**

**Accession #91-018**



- Creators:** Read Family members
- Title:** Read Family Papers
- Inclusive Dates:** 1875-1948
- Bulk Dates:** 1889-1948
- Quantity:** 0.75 Cubic Feet
- Accession:** Number 91-018
- Repository:** Brooklyn College Library Archives & Special Collections  
2900 Bedford Avenue  
Brooklyn NY 11210  
(718) 951-5346
- Restrictions:** The collection is open for research
- Copyright:** Copyright is retained by Brooklyn College Library
- Citation:** Item, folder title, box number, Read Family Papers, Brooklyn College Special Collections, Brooklyn College Library

### **Historical Note**

At the turn of the twentieth century, the Read family moved to the newly built suburban style neighborhood of Ditmas Park in Brooklyn. With his wife Elinor Mathews, Walter Read raised his family of two children, daughter Viola and son Lloyd, at their home at 745 Rugby Road.

Social life was pleasant for the Reads. They enjoyed attendance at the Wells Memorial Presbyterian Church, Argyle and Glenwood Roads. Walter Read kept an art sketchbook, while Mrs. Read was a photographer. During the twenties, son Lloyd C. Read attended college at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in upstate New York, from where he corresponded to his parents. In 1926, the family took an automobile trip to the West, visiting places such as Yellowstone National Park.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The Read Family Papers consists mainly of family correspondence and memorabilia dating from 1875 to 1945. The majority of the collection relates to the time period when the Read family moved to their residence at 745 Rugby Road in Flatbush, Brooklyn in 1905.

The collection is arranged into two Sub-Groups: I. Correspondence and II. Family Memorabilia and Photographs.

Special materials include: Walter Read's naturalization certificate (1894) and art sketch book, plus family correspondence, family neighborhood photographs, a travel diary from 1926 trip to the West, and the correspondence of Lloyd C. Read.

## **SUB-GROUP I: CORRESPONDENCE**

### **Series 1: Letters of Lloyd C. Read, 1924-1932**

Correspondence in Series 1 is between Lloyd Read and his parents, Walter and Elinor Read, as well as with his sister Viola. Letters are arranged chronologically and relate to Lloyd's college life and studies at RPI in Rensselaer, New York.

In his letters, Lloyd discusses classes, friends, job hunts, the weather, and also reflects on his thoughts and feelings.

*"I just received the laundry and mother's letter. Regarding the cottage I again wish to stress the fact that I want be able to go for a dip in the ocean [not the bay]. I do not mind commuting by boat if I could get that swim in the ocean every night. The bay is N.G. I might just as well commute from Brooklyn to Coney for a swim."*

- Letter to Walter Read: May 8, 1927

During his first two years in college, Lloyd shared a room in dorms of the Young Men's Christian Association in Troy, New York. But in February 1927, Lloyd received a letter announcing a rent increase.

*"Your rent for room 408 which you now occupy will be \$3.50 per week."*

- Letter from YMCA: February 18, 1927

This correspondence includes both typed and handwritten letters.

### **Series 2: Letters of Walter George Read, 1875, 1890**

This second series of correspondence consists of two handwritten letters. The earlier letter dates from June 14, 1875 and was written to Mr. Walter G. Read. The other letter dates from Sept. 9, 1890.

### **Series 3: Letters and Travel Journals of the Far West Relatives, "Bert & George," July 26, 1926**

Series 3 consists of letters and travel journals from the Read family trip to the Far West. The trip began in Montclair, New Jersey in the summer of 1926. It included stops in San Diego, California, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Las Vegas, Nevada, and Dayton, Ohio.

A sampling from a travel journal reads as follows:

*"We spent a number of hours at Santa Fe today. This is a very quaint city with its combination of Spanish, Mexican and Indian Pueblo architecture. There is a very attractive hotel and most of the business buildings are built in*

*this style. We spent some time in the state museum. We passed many more Indian villages and hilly country with cedars. At Las Vegas we slept in our car and it developed into a very cold night with some rain."*

- September 24, 1926, Albuquerque to Las Vegas, 139 miles

#### **Series 4: Miscellaneous Letters of Friends and Relatives, 1889-1948**

Over 50 years of correspondence between the Reads and their family and friends are located in this series. There are six different letters, one of them a notary public's affidavit on Elinor and Viola Read's citizenship, certifying that *"they were both born in Brooklyn."* [July 21, 1948]

#### **Series 5: Letters to Helene Harvitt, Editor of *The French Review***

Correspondence in Series 5 is the newest in the collection, dating from 1937 to 1962. These are letters to the editor of *The French Review*, Helene Harvitt, with most letters written in French.

### **SUB-GROUP II: FAMILY MEMORABILIA AND PHOTOGRAPHS**

#### **Series 6: Memorabilia**

Series 6 consists of personal memorabilia from the Read household. Among these are Walter G. Read's sketch books, a 1905 tax receipt for the 745 Rugby Road home, a 1926 "new calendar of desserts," and Mr. Read's 1894 naturalization certificate.

One item of a touching nature is Clement Light Read's "Breathings on a Sickbed," 1876. The little booklet consists of poems written by 16 year old Clement while on his deathbed. With titles like "Waiting" and "Loving Jesus," some titles being verses from the New Testament, they reflect the young lad's strong Christian faith. In one of his final poems, dedicated to his mother, he writes:

*"I will always love my mother  
Till up to heaven above,  
I'll be watching for her coming  
Where everything is love."*

- excerpt from "Filial Love"

#### **Series 7: Photographs**

Photographs in Series 7 mainly show life at 745 Rugby Road in Flatbush, Brooklyn, at the turn of the century. There are pictures of family and friends. A couple of pictures, dated 1905, show Mrs. Read with baby Lloyd outside their home. There are also photographs from the neighborhood, the 1926 Read family trip to the West, glass plate negatives of a fraternal organization and Brooklyn row houses.

## Container List

### BOX 1

#### SUB-GROUP I

#### CORRESPONDENCE

##### Series 1: Letters of Lloyd C. Read 1924-1932

- Folder 1: Letters of Lloyd C. Read, 1924
- Folder 2: Letters of Lloyd C. Read, 1925
- Folder 3: Letters of Lloyd C. Read, 1926
- Folder 4: Letters of Lloyd C. Read, 1927
- Folder 5: Letters of Lloyd C. Read, 1928
- Folder 6: Letters of Lloyd C. Read, 1929-1932

##### Series 2: Letters of Walter George Read 1875, 1894

- Folder 7: Letters of Walter George Read 1875, 1894

##### Series 3: Letters and Travel Journals 1926

- Folder 8: Travel Log of Bert & George July 29, 1926
- Folder 9: Travel Log of Bert & George August 21, 1926
- Folder 10: Letter and Travel Log of Bert & George September 17, 1926

##### Series 4: Miscellaneous Letters of Friends and Family, 1889-1948

- Folder 11: Miscellaneous Letters of Friends and Family

##### Series 5: Letters to Helene Harvitt, Editor The French Review, 1937-1962

- Folder 12: Letters to Helene Harvitt

### BOX 2

#### SUB-GROUP II

#### FAMILY MEMORABILIA & PHOTOGRAPHS

##### Series 6: Memorabilia & Photographs

- Envelope: Fenimore Street Church, Sunday Program Palm Sunday, March 24, 1918
- Envelope: Hiller, Elizabeth O., *New Calendar of Desserts*, circa 1926
- Envelope: Billheads and 1905 Tax Receipt for 745 Rugby Road, Brooklyn, New York
- Envelope: Scrapbook, 1920's missing
- Envelope: Read, Clement Light, *Breathings On Sickbed*, 1876

Envelope: Read, Walter George Sketchbook, circa 1900

Envelope: Read, Walter George Sketchbook "Sketches from Nature", 1897

Envelope: Walter George Read's Certificate of Naturalization, 1894

Envelope: Wedding Album

### **Series 7: Photographs**

Folder 1: Photographs, W.G. Read home, Bayonne, New Jersey

Folder 2: Photographs, W.G. Read home, 234 Adams Street, c. 1894-1902

Folder 3: Photographs by Elinor M. Read; Brooklyn Scenes, at Home, 745 Rugby Road

Folder 4: Photographs by Elinor M. Read; Family Members

Folder 5: Photographs by Elinor M. Read; Vacation Photos, 1926

Folder 6: (2) Envelopes: Photographs [Glass Plate Negative], Fraternal Organizations;

(1) Envelope: Photographs [Glass Plate Negative]; Row of Buildings, Brooklyn (?)

Folder 7: Unidentified Photographs (2)

## Photographs



Read Family home, 745 Rugby Road, Brooklyn NY, 1904



Dutch Costume Party, Read home, 745 Rugby Road, Brooklyn, Christmas 1904



Mrs Walter Read with her son Lloyd C. Read, on back lawn of 745 Rugby Road, Brooklyn, 1905





Mrs Samuel B. Matthews (Mrs Read's mother), in Prospect Park, 1899 [cyanotype process]



Mr & Mrs Walter Read and Family at home, 234 Adams St, Brooklyn, Christmas 1896



Dutch Costume Party, Read home, 745 Rugby Road, Brooklyn, Christmas 1904



Mrs Walter Read with her son Lloyd C. Read, on back lawn of 745 Rugby Road, Brooklyn, 1905



Lloyd C. Read, Graduation, 1928



Pan American Exposition, photo taken by Elinor Matthews (Read)

Updated 6/25/14