



Gray Family (Riggin) Collection

NUMBER: 19.599

TITLE: Gray Family (Riggin) Collection/ Gray, Oren [Golda & Audrey Gray] Collection

CREATOR: Edna, Golda & Audrey Gray

DATES: 1923-1934

MEDIA: School ribbon, diploma, report card, bank receipts, newspaper clippings, photographs, postcards, napkin, photograph albums and autograph albums

PHYSICAL: Collection is one box

LOCATION: Collection Facility, upstairs, Rack 1, Sec. 1 C, S.1

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS: Collection is open for Research and Use. Permission to publish material must be obtained from Tread of Pioneers Museum, Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

PREFERRED CITATION: Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: The Gray Family Papers: Tread of Pioneers Museum, Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

ACQUISITION INFORMATION: The Gray Family Papers were donated to the Tread of Pioneers Museum from Judith Riggin. A Deed of Gift was signed in 2019.

PROCESSING INFORMATION: The processing, arrangement, and description of the Gray Family Papers was completed in 2020 by curator Katie Adams.

BIOGRAPHY:

Oren M. and Edna L. Gray arrived in Yampa, CO in 1905 from Missouri. They had three daughters, Golda Gray (b.1910 & the mother of collection donor, Judith Riggin) and Audrey Gray (b.1912), another daughter Mary died at age 1 1/2. The girls were born in a cabin style ranch house near Yampa. By 1920, the family lived in house on Lincoln Ave. in Yampa. In 1924-1926 the Grays ran the Grand Hotel in Yampa.

According to the donor, Oren Gray most likely came to the Yampa Valley because his uncle, Alexander Gray moved to the region with his family in 1883 from Gray's Point, Missouri. Alexander Gray homesteaded near Phippsburg. The donor believes the Grays were related by marriage to other Egeria Park families including Wilson, Bird, and Choate. Mark Choate married Olive Gray.

Both Oren and Edna Gray died in February 1926, and they were buried at the Yampa cemetery. Daughters, Golda and Audrey moved to Missouri to live with family. In 1928 newspaper accounts record the girls were traveling back to Yampa for the summer from MO with Mark Choate. In the 1930s both girls moved to Steamboat Springs and Craig to visit and work. In 1930 Golda was employed at the Midwest Café in Craig. In 1931 Golda wrote a "Society" column for the Craig Empire Courier. In Jan. 1932 Golda married Glen Kitchens, by Nov. of 1932 the Courier documents that Golda spent several months in Denver she will move to Miller, MO indefinitely.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF COLLECTION:

The collection is comprised of two autograph albums and three photograph albums, paper keepsakes from Golda and Audrey Gray during their school years and early adulthood. Folder 2 includes Golda Gray's canceled Yampa Bank checks for money she earned in 1923 picking lettuce in Yampa at age 13. Folder 3 includes a collection of newspaper clippings on local ski jumper John Steele. Golda Gray followed Steele's ski jumping career, she and Steele may have had a romance (see Valentine telegraph).

***family obituaries, newspaper accounts, pdfs, are located in the library digital drive under Gray, Oren family.**

Select photographs have been or will be digitized and added to the TOPM photograph database. Image subjects include: Oren Gray & family, Grand Hotel in Yampa, lettuce workers and equipment, rodeo, Steamboat Springs downtown, buildings/Gray family homes, young friends, school kids, railroad, Trappers Lake, automobiles, ladies, Finger Rock

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION:

The Gray Family Collection is organized by media/material type.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder Number / File Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	1 / School materials	1923 – 1926
	2/ banking	Sept. 14 – 17, 1923
	3/ John Steele ski jumping clippings	Feb. 14, 1928 – Jan. 12, 1932
	4/Greeting cards, keepsakes, correspondence	
	5/postcards	
	6/Autograph books	1928
	Photograph albums (19-599-1, 19-599-2, 19-599-3)	
19-599-4, 5	Sheriff badges assigned to Oren Gray, Yampa	