



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

William Bross Lloyd papers

1910-1946 [bulk 1920-1946]

MssCol 18252

Compiled by Weatherly Stephan, 2014

Summary

Creator: Lloyd, William Bross, 1875-1946

Title: William Bross Lloyd papers

Date: 1910-1946 [bulk 1920-1946]

Size: 3.55 linear feet (8 boxes, 4 oversized folders)

Source: Gift of Georgia Lloyd, 1990.

Abstract: William Bross Lloyd (1875-1946) was an American lawyer and one-time member of the Socialist Party. The William Bross Lloyd papers date from 1910 to 1946 and contain correspondence, chiefly between Lloyd and his children; documents on the building and maintenance of Lloyd's winter home in Montego Bay, Jamaica; and a file on Lloyd's affiliation with the Socialist Party.

Access: Advance notice required.

Conditions Governing Access:

Some items in the collection are brittle and should be handled with care.

Preferred citation: William Bross Lloyd papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Weatherly Stephan, 2014

Related Materials:

Forms part of Schwimmer-Lloyd collection

William Bross Lloyd, Jr. papers. Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library (Contains Lloyd's outgoing letters to his son, daughter-in-law Mary Norris Lloyd, and grandson William Bross Lloyd III (Billy), with incoming letters from Lloyd Jr.).

Creator History

William Bross Lloyd (1875-1946) was an American lawyer and one-time member of the Socialist Party. He was born on February 24, 1875, the eldest son of investigative journalist Henry Demarest Lloyd and Jessie Bross, daughter of *Chicago Tribune* founder William Bross. He was raised in Winnetka, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. Lloyd graduated from Harvard College in 1898 and Harvard Law School in 1902, after which time he began practicing law in Massachusetts and Illinois.

Lloyd met his first wife, Lola Maverick, in Little Compton, Rhode Island, where both the Lloyd and Maverick families vacationed. The couple was married in November of 1902 and lived at the Wayside in Winnetka following the death of Henry Demarest Lloyd. The Lloyds had four children: Jessie Bross (born 1904), Mary Maverick (born 1906), William Bross Jr. (born 1908), and Georgia (born 1913). In 1916, Lola Maverick Lloyd filed for divorce, and the Lloyds fought for custody of their four children over the next seven years. Following the divorce, William Bross Lloyd married Madge Bird, and their son John Bird Lloyd was born in 1918.

Lloyd became a member of the Socialist Party in 1906 and was active in the local Chicago branch. He entered state and local elections as a Socialist candidate, though his highest profile race was not until 1918, when he unsuccessfully ran for an Illinois seat in the United States Senate as the Socialist Party nominee. In 1920, Lloyd was indicted with 38 other defendants for sedition, and after conviction in 1922 he served eight days in prison before his sentence was commuted. Thereafter, he left the Socialist Party and his political alignment shifted radically to the Republican Party.

Around 1930, Lloyd purchased land near Brandon Hill in Montego Bay, Jamaica. He oversaw the construction of an estate, known as Bu Saaba, where he, his wife, and his children vacationed throughout the 1930s and 1940s. William and Madge continued living between the Chicago area and Massachusetts, as he practiced law and managed Lloyd family properties in both locations. Lloyd died on June 20, 1946 in Boston, Massachusetts.

Scope and Content Note

The William Bross Lloyd papers date from 1910 to 1946 (bulk dates: 1920-1946) and contain correspondence, chiefly between Lloyd and his children; documents on the building and maintenance of Lloyd's winter home, Bu Saaba, in Montego Bay, Jamaica; and a file on Lloyd's affiliation with the Socialist Party.

Correspondence in the collection is arranged by correspondent and chronologically thereafter, with files for Georgia Lloyd, Mary Maverick Lloyd, and Family. In the Georgia and Mary Maverick Lloyd files, the daughters' correspondence with Lloyd's secretary Agnes M. Johansen is also extant. In addition to letters, the files include a small amount of drawings, greeting cards, event programs, and carbon copy enclosures of letters to other family members.

The correspondence provides sometimes weekly updates on the activities of the family, often sharing news of Madge and John Bird Lloyd with the Lloyd daughters, who resided with their mother. Throughout the letters, William Bross Lloyd inquires and learns about his daughters' music lessons, interests in handcrafts, jewelry and belongings, travel, health, education, friendships and relationships, and eventually, employment. Correspondence with daughter Georgia spans 1919, in her early childhood, to 1935, during her final year of attendance at Antioch College. Mary Maverick Lloyd's correspondence, dating from 1915 to Lloyd's death in 1946, includes detailed discussion of her financial matters. The bulk of the Family letters date from 1939 to 1946, and are primarily Lloyd's outgoing letters written while in residence at Bu Saaba. These letters discuss his daily activities on the estate, and are

comparable to lengthy diary entries for the level of detail provided. Other items in the Family files include a 1910 postcard from Lola Maverick Lloyd and a small amount of correspondence with children William Bross Lloyd Jr. and Jessie Lloyd O'Connor.

The Jamaica property files date from 1930 to 1946, and document the purchase of land for the estate; the design and construction of several structures within Bu Saaba, including a living house and dining house; and annual maintenance on the estate until Lloyd's death. The property files contain correspondence, architectural plans, design specifications, and memoranda regarding the land, structures, and roads on the estate. Correspondence is between Lloyd and Miss A. G. Roper, who coordinated the sale of the land; Eleanor Raymond, an architect with the Boston firm Frost and Raymond, who designed the structures built on the estate; and various manufacturing firms and salespeople, discussing fixtures and appliances. Floor plans and land surveys show the layout of the main living house and dining house; details on the plumbing and water delivery systems; and proposals for access roads on and near the property. Memoranda and lists of specifications articulate Lloyd's specific and comprehensive requests for fixtures, appliances, and design features on the interior and exterior of the living and dining houses as well as his sailboat, *Hi-Ho*. Lloyd's annual instructions to estate staff list tasks and improvement projects to be completed at Bu Saaba in the off season.

A small file on Lloyd's Socialist Party affiliation contains briefs for the 1922 appeal of his conviction; three letters with Hull House co-founder Ellen Gates Starr discussing his socialist beliefs; and a letter from 1940 that illustrates the marked change in his political views.

Arrangement: The collection is divided into correspondence files, Jamaica property files, and a Socialist Party file. Correspondence is arranged by correspondent (Family, Georgia Lloyd, and Mary Maverick Lloyd), then chronologically by year.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Floor plans
Land surveys

Subjects

Real property -- Jamaica -- Montego Bay

Names

Lloyd, Georgia, 1913-
Lloyd, Mary Maverick, 1906-1976
Socialist Party (U.S.)

Container List

Correspondence

- b. 1 f. 1-2 Family 1910-1946
- b. 1 f. 3-6 Lloyd, Georgia 1919-1927
- b. 2 f. 1-3 Lloyd, Georgia 1928-1935
- Lloyd, Mary Maverick
- b. 2 f. 4-7 1915-1923
- b. 3 f. 1-6 1923-1926
- b. 4 f. 1-8 1927-1932
- b. 5 f. 1-5 1933-1940
- b. 6 f. 1-4 1941-1946

Jamaica Property

- b. 6 f. 5-6 1930-1933
- b. 7 f. 1-6 1930-1945
- b. 8 f. 1 1934-1944
 - o. 1 Plans and Surveys 1930
 - o. 2 Plans and Surveys 1930-1931
 - o. 3 Plans and Surveys 1930-1931
 - o. 4 Plans and Surveys 1930-1931
- b. 8 f. 2 Socialist Party 1913-1940