

## ***Lyrl Clark Van Hyning Papers 1881-1982, undated***

**Creator:** Lyrl Clark Van Hyning (1892-1973)

**Extent:** 13 linear feet (21 boxes)

**Languages:** English, Spanish

**Repository:** Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago

### **Administration Information**

**Access Restrictions:** Some materials are restricted until 2034.

**Usage Restrictions:** Copyright for materials created by Lyrl Clark Van Hyning in this collection has been transferred to the Women and Leadership Archives.

**Preferred Citation:** Item, date of item, Box #, Folder #, Lyrl Clark Van Hyning Papers, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

**Provenance:** Received by the Women and Leadership Archives from the donor on May 15, 2009 (WLA2009.17), May 20, May 26, and May 28, 2009 (WLA2009.21), May 29, 2009 (WLA2009.22), June 1, June 9, and June 18, 2009 (WLA2009.26), June 29, 2009 (WLA2009.30), and October 12, 2009 (WLA2009.39).

**Processor:** Ashley Eckhardt, September 30, 2009.

**Processing Information:** The container list was updated in November 2023 when envelopes that were previously removed were matched with corresponding letters.

**Separations:** Approximately 2 linear feet of photographs, newspaper clippings, three-dimensional artifacts, and other documents were not included in the final collection and were returned to the donor.

**See Also:** American Medical Association Archives (correspondence regarding the *Women's Voice* anti-polio vaccine campaign), American Jewish Committee Archives, Gallia County Genealogical Society, Grace Wick Papers at the Oregon Historical Society Research Library (correspondence)

### **Biographical History**

Mary Lyrl Clark was born on July 23, 1892, to William Howard Clark and Rhoda Ann Walter Clark in Gallia County, Ohio. Lyrl also had three sisters, Frances (Frankie), Faye, and Genevieve (Bunnie). William died when Lyrl was just six years old, leaving Rhoda to raise the children and work the family farm on her own. Rhoda became a house mother at Rio Grande College in Gallipolis, Ohio, not far from the Clark family farm, so that her daughters could attend college. Lyrl graduated from Rio Grande in 1913 as the only woman in her class and the first graduate from the Department of Oratory. While in college, she participated in the Ciceronian Literary Society, the College Ladies' Glee Club, and college theatrical productions as well as serving on the editorial

staff for the yearbook. After graduation, Lyrl worked as a teacher in both public schools and Rio Grande College before marrying George Herman Van Hyning on June 17, 1915.

Lyrl and George had three children together: Parrie Ann, Thomas Clark (Tom), and Jorgina (Gina). The family lived in South America for a time as a result of George's job with the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. When the Van Hynings returned to the United States, they first lived in Galesburg, Illinois, and later settled in Chicago. With the threat of World War II looming, Lyrl began her most ardent anti-war campaigning in Chicago. In February 1941, Lyrl, Lucy Palermo, and Grace Keefe founded We, the Mothers, Mobilize for America, Inc., officially incorporated as an educational, tax-exempt organization. We the Mothers opposed American intervention in World War II. They sought to educate the American public and politicians about the threat to American democracy and the safety of their sons through the country's participation in the war. They protested President Roosevelt, the New Deal, lend-lease, and the war in general. The organization's newsletter, *Women's Voice*, spread their anti-war, anti-Communist, and anti-Semitic rhetoric to readers throughout the country. Lyrl served as editor for this publication, which ran for almost twenty years.

Lyrl's son Tom served during World War II as pilot for the Army Air Corps. As a result of his family's residence in Venezuela and his subsequent fluency in Spanish, Tom was sent to South America after completing his pilot training. He helped develop an Air Corps program in Paraguay and attained the rank of captain by the end of the war. Tom returned to South America after he was discharged from the military, living in Venezuela with his wife Shirley, whom he married in 1952, and his daughter Parrie Theresa. Tom died on May 3, 1955, when his plane crashed on a friend's farm near Ciudad Bolivar, Venezuela.

Lyrl continued to promote her political ideology throughout her entire life, primarily through the publication of *Women's Voice*, but she also gave speeches and wrote articles in other publications. In 1952, Lyrl was indicted and went to trial for libel as a result of her anti-Semitic rhetoric in *Women's Voice*. She was acquitted of the charges on November 10, 1952. In addition to her political activities, Lyrl was also a prominent member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, serving as regent of the Aurora chapter from 1936 until 1938. Lyrl's religious beliefs also impacted her life and writings. Raised a Methodist, she later became a Christian Scientist. She was also involved in the "I AM" Activity, a religious movement founded in the 1930s.

After George died on March 31, 1960, Lyrl moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to be near her daughters Parrie Ann and Gina and their families. Later, Shirley and Parrie Theresa joined the rest of the Van Hynings in New Mexico. Lyrl remained in New Mexico until her death as a result of breast cancer on June 9, 1973.

### **Scope and Content**

The Lyrl Clark Van Hyning Papers contain materials related to Lyrl's activities as a political activist through organizations like We, the Mothers, Mobilize for America, Inc. and her publication of *Women's Voice*. This collection also includes many items regarding Lyrl's family, providing a vivid picture of family life in the Van Hyning household. Materials include correspondence, newspaper articles, speeches, handwritten notes, journals, books, photographs, and three-dimensional objects. Some items, particularly certain correspondence and official documents, are in Spanish due to the

Van Hynings' numerous activities and residences in South America. The records are arranged alphabetically within each series.

**Series 1: Family/Personal, 1920-1973, 2009, undated, Boxes 1-6**

This series contains records relating to Lyrl and her family, particularly her children, grandchildren, and sisters. The bulk of the material in this series consists of correspondence, primarily among the family members, between 1927 and Lyrl's death in 1973. Much of this correspondence occurred during World War II when Tom was serving as an Army Air Corps pilot and later moved to Venezuela. Other items in this series include Lyrl's college materials, Tom's military and personal records, the family's travel records to South America from 1929 to 1930, and various newspaper articles and other documents related to other members of Lyrl's family.

**Series 2: Professional, 1913-1973, undated, Boxes 6-7**

Materials in this series relate to Lyrl's professional activities, including her participation in the Daughters of the American Revolution and We, the Mothers, Mobilize for America, Inc., as well as her editorship of the newsletter *Women's Voice*. Documents and newspaper articles regarding Lyrl's political and religious views are also included in this series as well as items related to her trial for libel in 1952. Materials in this series include articles, correspondence, newsletters, brochures, speeches, and handwritten notes.

**Series 3: Photographs, 1892-1982, undated, Boxes 8-9**

This series contains photographs of Lyrl's family, including her husband, children, and grandchildren. Also included are photographs of the farm Lyrl grew up on in Ohio and photographs from her childhood that include her parents and sisters. A scrapbook compiled by Lyrl when she was a young adult and Tom's baby book are also part of this series.

**Series 4: Journals, 1907-1973, undated, Boxes 10-13**

Lyrl's handwritten journals comprise this series. The journals span from 1907 until her death in 1973. Many of the journals are spiral-bound notebooks of varying sizes and contain inserts of news clippings and correspondence. Typewritten transcriptions of some of the journals between 1907 and 1955 are also included.

**Series 5: Books, 1881-1969, undated, Boxes 14-17**

This series contains books from Lyrl's library, covering topics from religion to politics to poetry. Most of the books discuss Christian Science and the "I AM" Activity, while many of the others reflect Lyrl's political views.

**Series 6: Three-Dimensional Objects, 1940-1978, undated, Boxes 18-20**

Three-dimensional objects from Lyrl's life comprise this series, including her sweater, pins, watch face, lace banquet cloth, engraved silverware, a painting of her home in New Mexico, and two framed photographs of the Clark farm in Ohio. Also included in this series are Tom's flying scarf and a Chicago Adventurers' Club banner given to him in 1954.

**Series 7: Restricted Material, Box 21**

These materials are restricted until 2034.

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**Subjects:**

Antisemitism  
Antisemitism--United States  
Antisemitism--United States--Societies, etc.  
Christian Science--Doctrines  
Christian Scientists  
Conservative women  
I AM Religious Activity  
Mothers' movement  
Lyrl Clark Van Hyning (1892-1973)  
We, the Mothers, Mobilize for America, Inc.  
Women and politics  
*Women's Voice*  
World War II

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| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Title</u>   | <u>Dates</u>                    |
|------------|---------------|--|---------------------------------|
|            |               | <b><i>Lyrl Clark Van Hyning Papers</i></b><br><b><i>1881-1982, undated</i></b> |                                 |
|            |               | <b>Series 1: Family/Personal, 1920-1973, 2009, undated</b>                     |                                 |
| 1          | 1             | Correspondence   | 1927-1941, undated              |
| 1          | 2             | Correspondence, January-June   | 1942                            |
| 1          | 3             | Correspondence, July-December  | 1942                            |
| 1          | 4             | Correspondence, January-March  | 1943                            |
| 1          | 5             | Correspondence, April-June   | 1943                            |
| 2          | 1             | Correspondence, July-August  | 1943                            |
| 2          | 2             | Correspondence, September-December   | 1943                            |
| 2          | 3             | Correspondence   | 1944                            |
| 2          | 4             | Correspondence   | 1945                            |
| 2          | 5             | Correspondence, January-May  | 1946                            |
| 2          | 6             | Correspondence, July-December  | 1946                            |
| 3          | 1             | Correspondence   | 1947                            |
| 3          | 2             | Correspondence   | 1948                            |
| 3          | 3             | Correspondence   | 1949-1951                       |
| 3          | 4             | Correspondence, January-May  | 1952                            |
| 3          | 5             | Correspondence, June-December  | 1952                            |
| 3          | 6             | Correspondence   | 1953                            |
| 4          | 1             | Correspondence   | 1954                            |
| 4          | 2             | Correspondence   | 1955                            |
| 4          | 3             | Correspondence   | 1956                            |
| 4          | 4             | Correspondence (1 of 2)  | 1957-1961                       |
| 4          | 5             | Correspondence (2 of 2)  | 1957-1961                       |
| 4          | 6             | Correspondence   | 1962                            |
| 5          | 1             | Correspondence   | 1963-1965                       |
| 5          | 2             | Correspondence   | 1966-1973                       |
| 5          | 3             | Envelopes separated from letters   | 1935-1965                       |
| 5          | 4             | Rio Grande College   | 1913-1917                       |
| 5          | 5             | <i>El Sol</i> vol.1, no. 1-5   | 1971                            |
| 5          | 6             | Miscellaneous Family Records   | 1936, 1949, 1964, undated       |
| 5          | 7             | Newspaper Articles   | 1965, undated                   |
| 5          | 8             | Parrie Ann Van Hyning Shortle  | circa 1920, 1929, 1975, undated |
| 5          | 9             | Tom Van Hyning: Congressional Run  | 1946                            |
| 5          | 10            | Tom Van Hyning: Journals   | 1943, undated                   |

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|---|----|---|--------------------------|
| 6   | 1  | Tom Van Hyning: Expense Account             | 1946                     |
| 6   | 2  | Tom Van Hyning: Pedigree Chart              | 2009                     |
| 6   | 3  | Tom Van Hyning: Personal Records            | 1920-1939                |
| 6   | 4  | Tom Van Hyning: Personal Records            | 1941-1944                |
| 6   | 5  | Tom Van Hyning: Personal Records            | 1945-1947                |
| 6   | 6  | Tom Van Hyning: Personal Records            | 1949-1955                |
| 6   | 7  | Unattributed Poetry                         | 1970, undated            |
| 6   | 8  | Van Hyning Family Venezuelan Documents      | 1929-1930                |
| <b>Series 2: Professional, 1914-1973, undated</b> |    |   |                          |
| 6   | 9  | Articles about Lyrl                         | 1942, 1961, 1973         |
| 6   | 10 | Brochures and stationery                    | undated                  |
| 6   | 11 | Daughters of the American Revolution        | 1928-1960                |
| 7   | 1  | Libel Trial                                 | 1952                     |
| 7   | 2  | Political Views: Documents                  | 1933-1972, undated       |
| 7   | 3  | Political Views: Newspaper Articles         | 1925-1967, undated       |
| 7   | 4  | Religious Views                             | 1914-1928, 1951, undated |
| 7   | 5  | South America                               | 1929-1958, undated       |
| 7   | 6  | Speeches and Notes (1 of 2)                 | 1920-1942, undated       |
| 7   | 7  | Speeches and Notes (2 of 2)                 | 1920-1942, undated       |
| 7   | 8  | We, the Mothers, Mobilize for America, Inc. | 1941-1945, undated       |
| 7   | 9  | <i>Women's Voice</i>                        | 1944-1960, undated       |
| 7   | 10 | <i>Women's Voice</i> Correspondence         | 1947-1967                |
| <b>Series 3: Photographs, 1892-1982, undated</b>  |    |   |                          |
| 8   | 1  | Clark Family                                | 1906-1968, undated       |
| 8   | 2  | George H. Van Hyning                        | 1892-1960, undated       |
| 8   | 3  | Leila "Aleita" Albert Van Hyning            | 1935-1945                |
| 8   | 4  | Lyrl and George Van Hyning                  | 1913-1915, undated       |
| 8   | 5  | Lyrl and George Van Hyning Family           | 1919-1971, undated       |
| 8   | 6  | Lyrl and George Van Hyning's Homes          | undated                  |
| 8   | 7  | Lyrl Clark Van Hyning                       | 1892-1970, undated       |
| 8   | 8  | Parrie Ann Van Hyning Shortle               | 1918-1940, undated       |
| 8   | 9  | Parrie Ann and Samuel Shortle Family        | 1948, undated            |
| 8   | 10 | Parrie Theresa Van Hyning                   | 1953-1969, undated       |
| 8   | 11 | Shirley Barger Van Hyning Stahmann          | 1940-1957, undated       |
| 8   | 12 | Tom Van Hyning                              | 1919-1982, undated       |
| 8   | 13 | Tom and Shirley Van Hyning Family           | undated                  |
| 8   | 14 | Van Hyning Family                           | 1898-1964, undated       |

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|---|----|--|-----------------------|
| 8   | 15 | Venezuela  | 1950-1952, undated    |
| 8   | 16 | <i>Women's Voice</i> Staff   | undated               |
| 9   | 1  | Lyrl's Scrapbook   | undated               |
| 9   | 2  | Lyrl's Scrapbook: Loose Photos   | undated               |
| 9   | 3  | Lyrl's Scrapbook: Loose Materials  | 1915-1916, undated    |
| 9   | 4  | Tom's Baby Book  | 1919                  |
| 9   | 5  | Tom's Baby Book: Loose Photos  | undated               |
| 9   | 6  | Tom's Baby Book: Loose Materials   | 1919-1924, undated    |
| <b>Series 4: Journals, 1907-1973, undated</b> |    |  |                       |
| 10  | 1  | Lyrl's Journal   | undated               |
| 10  | 2  | Lyrl's Journal   | 1907-1918, 1915, 1967 |
| 10  | 3  | Lyrl's Journal   | 1913-1915             |
| 10  | 4  | Lyrl's Journal   | 1920                  |
| 10  | 5  | Lyrl's Journal   | 1934-1938             |
| 10  | 6  | Lyrl's Journal   | 1935-1936             |
| 10  | 7  | Lyrl's Journal   | 1936-1938, 1959       |
| 10  | 8  | Lyrl's Journal   | 1937                  |
| 10  | 9  | Lyrl's Journal   | 1938-1940             |
| 10  | 10 | Lyrl's Journal   | 1939-1941             |
| 11  | 1  | Transcriptions of Lyrl's Journals  | 1907-1955             |
| 11  | 2  | Lyrl's Journal   | 1945, 1961            |
| 11  | 3  | Lyrl's Journal   | 1945, 1961-1965       |
| 11  | 4  | Lyrl's Journal   | 1952-1955             |
| 11  | 5  | Lyrl's Calendar/Journal  | 1955                  |
| 11  | 6  | Lyrl's Journal   | 1960                  |
| 11  | 7  | Lyrl's Journal   | 1963                  |
| 11  | 8  | Lyrl's Journal   | 1964, 1971            |
| 12  | 1  | Lyrl's Journal [includes photograph]                                       | 1964-1969             |
| 12  | 2  | Lyrl's Journal   | 1965-1967             |
| 12  | 3  | Lyrl's Journal   | 1966-1968             |
| 13  | 1  | Lyrl's Journal   | 1967-1969             |
| 13  | 2  | Lyrl's Journal   | 1970-1973             |
| <b>Series 5: Books, 1881-1969, undated</b>    |    |  |                       |
| 14  | 1  | <i>Christian Science and Organized Religion</i> , Hugh A. Studdert Kennedy | 1930                  |
| 14  | 2  | <i>The Constitution Explained</i> , Harry Atwood                           | 1962                  |
| 14  | 3  | <i>The Disappearance</i> , Philip Wylie                                    | 1951                  |
| 14  | 4  | <i>English Poems</i> , ed. Walter C. Bronson                               | 1907                  |
| 14  | 5  | <i>Ex America</i> , Garet Garrett  | 1951                  |

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| 14 | 6   | <i>A Fair Barbarian</i> , Frances Hodgson Burnett   | 1881             |
| 14 | 7   | <i>Holy Bible</i>   | undated          |
| 14 | 8-9 | <i>"I AM" The Law Decrees – Part I</i> [2 copies]   | 1951             |
| 15 | 1   | <i>The Iliad of Homer</i> , trans. Alexander Pope   | 1919             |
| 15 | 2   | <i>"I AM" Decrees for Violet Consuming Flame – Part I, Part II, and Part III</i> [in single case] | 1947, 1950, 1952 |
| 15 | 3   | <i>"I AM" Decrees for Violet Consuming Flame – Part II</i>  | 1947             |
| 15 | 4   | <i>"I AM" Violet Flames Series II</i>   | 1965             |
| 15 | 5   | <i>I Say Sunrise</i> , Talbot Mundy   | 1974             |
| 15 | 6   | <i>The Law of Liberty</i> , L. Fry  | 1963             |
| 15 | 7   | <i>The Life Everlasting</i> , Marie Corelli   | 1911             |
| 15 | 8   | <i>The "I AM" Discourses</i> , Godfré Ray King  | 1945             |
| 15 | 9   | <i>"I AM" Decrees for America's Freedom</i>   | 1941             |
| 15 | 10  | <i>"I AM" Ascended Master Forgiveness and Mercy Decrees</i>                                       | 1950             |
| 15 | 11  | <i>Law of Life: Book II</i> , A. D. K. Luk  | 1960             |
| 15 | 12  | <i>Let the Hurricane Roar</i> , Rose Wilder Lane  | 1948             |
| 15 | 13  | <i>Life and Teaching of Jesus and Mary</i> , A.D.K. Luk   | 1966             |
| 15 | 14  | <i>The Master Christian</i> , Marie Corelli   | 1900             |
| 16 | 1   | <i>The Odyssey of Homer</i> , trans. Alexander Pope   | 1911             |
| 16 | 2   | <i>One Hundred and One Famous Poems</i> , revised ed., Roy J. Cook                                | 1958             |
| 16 | 3   | <i>The Mountain on the Desert: A Philosophical Journey</i> , Conrad Richter                       | 1966             |
| 16 | 4   | <i>Old Ugly-Face</i> , Talbot Mundy   | 1950             |
| 16 | 5   | <i>New Horizons: Beyond the World</i> , Frank Bowman  | 1969             |
| 16 | 6   | <i>Quiet Talks with the Master</i> , Eva Bell Werber  | 1947             |
| 16 | 7   | <i>The Voice of the Silence</i> , H. P. Blavatsky   | 1946             |
| 16 | 8   | <i>Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures</i> , Mary Baker Eddy                            | 1934             |
| 16 | 9   | <i>Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures: Sunday School Edition</i> , Mary Baker Eddy     | 1934             |
| 16 | 10  | <i>The Revelation to John</i> , Aylmer Firebrace,   | 1963             |
| 16 | 11  | <i>Pentecostal Hymns: Number Three</i> , Henry Date   | 1902             |
| 17 | 1   | <i>Scriptural Healing Arranged from the Bible</i> , Helen L. Young                                | 1907             |
| 17 | 2   | <i>The Prophet</i> , Kahlil Gibran  | 1945             |
| 17 | 3   | <i>A Royal Diadem</i> , Walter C. Lanyon  | 1921             |
| 17 | 4   | <i>Our Messenger's "I AM" Speaks</i>  | 1941             |
| 17 | 5-6 | <i>The Voice of the "I AM,"</i> no. 3, May [2 copies]   | 1936             |
| 17 | 7   | <i>The Voice of the "I AM,"</i> no. 6, August   | 1937             |
| 17 | 8   | <i>The Voice of the "I AM,"</i> no. 10, December  | 1937             |
| 17 | 9   | <i>The Voice of the "I AM,"</i> no. 6, August   | 1939             |
| 17 | 10  | <i>The Voice of the "I AM,"</i> no. 10, December  | 1941             |



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| 17   | 11    | <i>The Voice of the "I AM,"</i> no. 3, March   | 1945        |
| 17   | 12-13 | <i>The Voice of the "I AM,"</i> no. 5, May [2 copies]  | 1945        |
| 17   | 14    | <i>The Voice of the "I AM,"</i> no. 8, August  | 1947        |
| 17   | 15    | <i>The Voice of the "I AM,"</i> no. 9, September   | 1947        |
| 17   | 16    | <i>The Voice of the "I AM,"</i> no. 1, January   | 1948        |
| 17   | 17    | <i>The Voice of the "I AM,"</i> no. 12, December   | 1948        |
| 17   | 18    | <i>The Voice of the "I AM,"</i> no. 8, August  | 1950        |
| 17   | 19    | <i>The Voice of the "I AM,"</i> no. 4, April   | 1951        |
| 17   | 20    | <i>War—What For?</i> George R. Kirkpatrick   | 1914        |
| <b>Series 6: Three-Dimensional Objects, 1940-1978, undated</b> |       |  |             |
| 18   | 1     | Lyrl's cardigan sweater  | undated     |
| 19   | 1     | Pin: Ex-Chapter Regent Aurora  | undated     |
| 19   | 2     | Pin: circle with stone   | undated     |
| 19   | 3     | Pin: We the Mothers Mobilize for America   | undated     |
| 19   | 4     | Watch: Engraved "To Mom from Tom"  | undated     |
| 19   | 5     | Engraved silver knife and fork set   | undated     |
| 19   | 6     | Lace banquet cloth from Paraguay: Tom gave to Lyrl   | early 1940s |
| 19   | 7     | Tom's flying scarf with stitching of his initials  | undated     |
| 19   | 8     | Tom's Chicago Adventurers' Club banner: "Thomas Van Hyning Devil Mountain Gran Sabana Venezuela 1954 The Adventurers Club Chicago"                 | 1954        |
| 20   | 1     | Framed photos at Clark farm in Gallia County Ohio: (left) Lyrl and Faye Clark with horses; (right) Lyrl, Faye, Mabel, and Rhoda Clark, and unknown | undated     |
| 20   | 2     | Painting of Lyrl's home in New Mexico: painted by Lyrl's daughter Parrie Ann Shortle   | 1978        |
| <b>Series 7: Restricted Material</b>                           |       |  |             |
| 21   | --    | Restricted Material  |             |