

**Sturgis Library Archives
Genealogical and Personal Document Collection**

MS. 9

DONALD G. AND ANNABEL J. TRAYSER PAPERS

Volume: 1 linear foot

Provenance: Gifts of Philip Jerauld and Robert Anthony, 1993

Restrictions: None given

Processed by: Pamela Narbeth, 10/97

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Donald Grant Trayser, 1902-1955

Donald Grant Trayser was born in New London, Wisconsin in 1902. He graduated from the journalism school at the University of Wisconsin. As a young newspaperman, he was hired by the New Bedford Standard, and assigned to the Hyannis desk to report on Cape Cod events for the New Bedford daily.

For the next 30 years, Don Trayser devoted his life to Cape Cod, its past and its present. He became totally immersed in the history of the Cape and all aspects of Cape life, and became one of its most best-known personalities. He married a local girl, Annabel (Anne) Jerauld in 1930 and they lived in Hyannis for many years. In 1947 they moved to a home on Bow Lane, Barnstable, which they ran as a guest house.

In 1936 Trayser became the Cape correspondent for the Boston Globe, and also became the editor of the weekly Barnstable Patriot. An avid collector of Cape Cod books and history, he wrote *Barnstable, Three Centuries of a Cape Cod Town* (F.B. & F.P. Goss, Hyannis: 1939) for the Barnstable tercentenary in 1939. This volume quickly became the definitive history of the town, and Trayser was recognized as the authority on Cape Cod history.

When the position of clerk of the Superior Court became available in 1940, Don Trayser ran for and won the position. With a public office, his career as a newspaperman ended, but he continued to write on Cape Cod history. He also became a popular speaker on Cape lore. In 1945 he became president of the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce until 1946, and director from 1946 to 1949.

Mr. Trayser had many Cape-related interests. He was a Trustee, then a Vice President of the Cape Cod Hospital, a Trustee of the West Parish Meeting House Memorial Foundation, and a managing Trustee of Sturgis Library. He was also a director of the Cape Cod Co-operative Bank of Yarmouth. It was after returning from an annual meeting of this bank that he suddenly collapsed and died at home on April 14, 1955, of a heart attack at the age of 52.

Annabel Jerauld Trayser, 1900-1993

Annabel Jerauld Trayser (always known as Anne) was born on March 23, 1900 in Barnstable, the daughter of Ensign C. Jerauld and Anna (Eldridge) Jerauld. She grew up in Barnstable and graduated from Barnstable High School in 1916.

In 1918 Anne went to work as a clerk in the Barnstable County Probate Court as a clerk, and she worked for them until 1930. She then married Donald Trayser, and left the courthouse for married life in Hyannis and later on Bow Lane in Barnstable. Among other pursuits she assisted her husband when he wrote *Barnstable, Three Centuries of a Cape Cod Town* (F.B. & F.P. Goss, Hyannis: 1939.) She also ran a guesthouse in their home on Bow Lane from 1949 to 1958, which was known for the beauty of her gardens.

After Don died in 1952, Anne returned to her position at the probate court, and was appointed to Assistant Registrar in 1965. In 1965 she succeeded her sister Myra Jerauld as Register, a post Myra had held for 51 years.

Among her many interests were the Donald Trayser Memorial Museum, where she was the chair of the Management Committee, and Sturgis Library, where she was a Trustee. Anne was Register until 1970, when she retired from public office to her home on Bow Lane where she lived for many years. She died one day before her 93rd birthday, on March 22, 1993.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection primarily consists of papers reflecting the lives of Donald G. and Annabel (Anne) Trayser. There are photographs of both of them with family members from childhood through adulthood, and a collection of early 20th century postcards received by both of them. Anne's series includes theater and school activity programs, poetry and party invitations. That folder includes a World War I propaganda poem entitled "The Kaiser's Dream." The Traysers' adult careers are recorded by business correspondence, election campaign materials and professional memberships, newspaper articles, and the guest book from their bed and breakfast on Bow Lane, Barnstable. The founding of the Donald G. Trayser museum is also documented, and a cash book recording admissions is included that may be from the museum. The collection also has their marriage program and certificate and copies of gardening articles written by Anne Trayser and others along with many photographs of her garden.

In addition, there are copies of wills and estate papers of several family members, which are useful to establish family connections.

Materials in the collection are divided into four series: 1: Donald G. Trayser; 2: Anne Jerauld Trayser; 3: Photographs; and 4: Family Estate Papers.

SERIES LIST

SERIES 1:

Donald Trayser, (1902-1955)
Genealogy, correspondence, old postcards, personal items

SERIES 2:

Annabel Jerauld Trayser (1900-1993)
Correspondence, theater and school programs, postcards, cash journal.

SERIES 3:

Photographs
Donald and Annabel (Anne) Trayser and family members.

SERIES 4:

Family estate papers
Wills and estate papers of various members of the Trayser and Jerauld families

See following page for container list.

DONALD G. AND ANNABEL J. TRAYSER PAPERS CONTAINER LIST

Box Folder Contents

SERIES 1: Donald G. Trayser, 1902-1955:

- 1 1 Trayser family genealogy
- 1 2 Business correspondence, 1925-1955
- 1 3 Memberships, campaign election materials, 1921-1945
- 1 4 Eastham's Three Centuries, publication proofs, 1951
- 1 5 Bow Lane house guest book, 1949-1959
- 1 6 Postcards received by Donald Trayser from his father, 1911
- 1 7 Marriage service and certificate, Donald Trayser and Annabel Jerauld, October 11, 1930
- 1 8 Donald Trayser's death: newspaper tributes, death certificate, funeral account, estate papers, 1955

SERIES 2: Annabel Jerauld Trayser (1900-1993)

- 2 1 Correspondence, business papers, legal documents, 1895-1988
- 2 2 Cash Journal, 1960-1962 [Trayser Museum?]
- 2 3 Play and school programs, poetry
- 2 4 Postcards received, early 20th century
- 2 5 Gardening articles, notes, correspondence, 1949-1950

SERIES 3: Photographs

- 2 6-8 Photographs of Donald Trayser, Annabel Trayser and other family members

SERIES 4: Family estate papers

- 2 9 Estate papers of Myra Jerauld, 1979 (Annabel Trayser's sister)
- 2 10 Will and estate papers of Lulu B. Trayser, 1946; will and estate papers of Marie A. Mayberry, 1958; and schedule of estate of Ensign C. Jerauld.
Certificates, diplomas, etc.
 - High school admission certificates, 1912, for Annabel Jerauld and Phyllis Eldredge Jerauld
 - Journalism Degree, Donald Trayser, BA, University of Wisconsin, 1924
 - Appointment, Probation Officer, Donald Trayser, First District Court of Barnstable, 1929
 - Appointment Certificates, Donald Trayser, Clerk of Courts, Barnstable, 1940, 1946, 1952
 - Appointment Certificate, Associate Member Selective Service Advisory Board, 1942
 - Appointment Certificate, Commission to Qualify Public Officers, Massachusetts, 1947
 - Mason's Certificate, January 1959
 - Commission Certificate, 2nd Lieutenant in the 2nd Military Police Battalion of the Militia of Massachusetts, 1966
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