

Sturgis Library Archives
MS. 199
George Lyman Kittredge Collection

Extent: 4 boxes.

Scope and Content Note: The collection consists of manuscripts, documents, and photographs pertaining to the life and work of George Lyman Kittredge, noted Harvard professor and Shakespeare scholar. It also includes documents related to his children and their families, with a large collection of information on Kittredge's son-in law and his family, the Wesselhoefts, another noted Barnstable family.

Biographical and historical information: George Lyman Kittredge, who spent his early years in Barnstable on Cape Cod, went on to be a professor who specialized in the study of Shakespeare and Chaucer, called "a peerless authority" on the subjects, and was given many honors and recognition throughout his life. He graduated from Harvard with highest honors in 1882 and began teaching Latin at Phillips Exeter Academy that year. In 1888, he was appointed English instructor at Harvard, and became a full professor in 1894. He was a very popular professor, remembered for his stories and sharp wit. He was the author of many books including "The Language of Chaucer's Troilus" (1894), "Words and their Ways in English Speech" (1901), and "Concise English Grammar" (1919). He received honorary degrees from the University of Chicago, Johns Hopkins University, Brown University, Harvard, Yale and Oxford. He died at his summer home in Barnstable, Massachusetts. A biography of his life was written in 1962: *George Lyman Kittredge Teacher and Scholar*, by Clyde Kenneth Hyder. (Information provided by Laura Mitchell on *Find a Grave*).

David P. Lewis (1787-1858) & 2nd wife Sarah "Sally" Gorham Harris Lewis (Unknown-1880)
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Deborah Lewis Kittredge (1822-1906) & 2nd husband Edward Lyman Kittredge (1827-1906)
|
George Lyman Kittredge (1860-1941) & Frances E Gordon Kittredge (1861-1951)
|
Frances Kittredge Wesselhoeft (1887-1973) Henry Crocker Kittredge (1890-1967) Dora Kittredge (1893-1974)
Conrad Wesselhoeft (1884-1962) Patsy Livingston (1892-1988) Unmarried

Access: Unrestricted. Credit Sturgis Library Archives for publication purposes.

Acquisition: Gift of Anne Smalley, a member of the Wesselhoeft family.

Processed by: Lucy Loomis, February 2026.

Related collection(s):

MS. 1 – Henry Crocker Kittredge Collection
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Please note that for the sake of brevity George Lyman Kittredge will be referred to as GLK.

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| BOX 1 | Fldr 1 | Biographical essay on GLK |
| | Fldr 2 | <i>A Towering Cape Codder</i> -- a biography of GLK by Conrad Wesselhoeft, grandson of GLK |
| | Fldr 3 | Biographical essays on GLK by various authors |
| | Fldr 4 | <i>Scholar's Olio</i> – writings by GLK and other 13-15-year-old Barnstable students, 1873-1875 |
| | Fldr 5 | Writings by GLK – essays, poems, etc. |
| | Fldr 6 | GLK photos |
| | Fldr 7 | GLK's 1932 trip to London to present of series of lectures on Shakespeare – correspondence, programs, personal accounts, etc. |
| | Fldr 8 | GLK's lecture programs and miscellany |
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| BOX 2 | Fldr 1 | Frances (Fanny) E. Gordon and family – GLK's wife Includes love letters from GLK, a memorial to her mother, writings by Fanny and others, etc. |
| | Fldr 2 | Writings by GLK's children and mother |
| | Fldr 3 | Letters to GLK about genealogy and family lineage, primarily from 1878. He had written to relatives and others in preparation for writing a family genealogy. It was never written or published as far as is known. |
| | Fldr 4 | Kittredge, Gordon, Lewis, Wesselhoeft, and related families genealogy and family history |
| | Fldr 5 | Letters to GLK 1913-1933 – half-sized |
| | Fldr 6 | Letters to GLK 1872-1938 – full-sized |
| | Fldr 7 | Miscellaneous photographs of GLK and various family members. Includes a photograph of a womanless (all male) wedding held in Eastham 1931. It accompanies an article on the tradition of womanless weddings as entertainment. |
| | Fldr 8 | Miscellaneous writings, authors unknown |

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| BOX 2 | Fldr 9 | Letters written in the 1860s & 1870s to Sarah (Sally) Harris Lewis, the second wife of David P. Lewis, GLK's grandfather. |
| | Fldr 10 | Receipts and documents related to Edward Kittredge and David P. Lewis, GLK's father and grandfather respectively. |
| | Fldr 11 | Henry Crocker Kittredge – GLK's son – letters, photographs, writings, etc. |
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| BOX 3 | Fldr 1 | Dora Kittredge – 2 partial diaries, 1945 and 1962 |
| | Fldr 2 | Dora Kittredge letters and writings |
| | Fldr 3 | Dora Kittredge creative writing journals (2) |
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| | | |
| BOX 4 | Fldr 1 | Newspaper and magazine articles on GLK's career and retirement |
| | Fldr 2 | <i>Buxtehude and Beyond: The Wesselhoeft Family</i> by Walter Hoffman |
| | Fldr 3 | <i>Conrad Wesselhoeft MD: A Biography</i> by his sons Conrad and William, 1997/98 |
| | Fldr 4 | <i>A Psychological Study by an Untutored Unpsychological Man: An Autobiography</i> by Walter Wesselhoeft (1838-1920) |
| | Fldr 5 | Record of Wesselhoeft Babies |
| | Fldr 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pages from Pete Wesselhoeft photo album & writings • Miscellaneous Wesselhoeft photographs |