

**TITLE:** Rice family correspondence

**DATE RANGE:** 1912-1919

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 0974

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2 linear ft. (4 boxes)

**PROVENANCE:** Donated by Hester Rice Clark and Sylvia Rice Hilsinger on May 13, 1980.

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**CREDIT LINE:** Rice family correspondence, MS 0974, Arizona Historical Society-Tucson

**PROCESSED BY:** Finding aid transcribed by Nancy Siner, November 2015

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:** Harvey Clifton Rice was born in Liberal, Kansas on September 1, 1889, to Katherine Lane Rice and Joseph Davenport Rice. He lived with his parents and sister, Sarah, in Tecumseh, Kansas until 1914, when the family moved to Hayden, Arizona. Harvey and his father were employed by the Ray Consolidated Copper Company. Sarah worked as a telephone operator until she married and moved to Humboldt, Arizona in 1916. In Hayden, the Rice family lived in a tent to which they later added rooms.

Harvey Rice was drafted into the United States Army in 1917. He was plagued by poor health during his term of service and was discharged on July 27, 1919.

Charlotte Abigail Burre was born in Independence, Missouri on December 11, 1888. Her parents, Henry Burre and Mary Catherine Sappenfield Burre, had five other daughters: Hester, Lucy, Henrietta, Martha and George; and three sons: Robert, Carrol and Ed. Charlotte's father was a carpenter and the family supplemented his income by taking boarders in the home. Charlotte's brother, Carrol, was drafted and served in France where he was awarded the distinguished Served Cross and the Croix de Guerre. Another brother, Ed, suffered a nervous breakdown one month after being drafted. He remained with the family. Charlotte was active in the Lutheran Church and taught Sunday school classes. She worked as a stenographer for several companies until she married Harvey Rice in 1919.

Harvey Rice and Charlotte Burre met in Topeka, Kansas in 1912. Their correspondence began at that time and continued until their marriage seven years later. Harvey and Charlotte became engaged in 1918 and were married in Missouri on August 25, 1919. The couple lived in Hayden for two years before moving to Phoenix in 1921. They had three children, Sylvia, Hester and Ivan.

Harvey Rice died in the Phoenix Veteran's Administrational Hospital on November 16, 1966, at the age of 76. Charlotte Burre Rice died in Good Samaritan Hospital in Phoenix on December 4, 1974, at the age of 85.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:** This collection contains more than 875 letters arranged chronologically from 1912-1919. Approximately seventy-five percent of the correspondence was

written between Charlotte A. Burre and Harvey C. Rice and contains descriptions of the daily life of the Burre and Rice families. Another ten percent of the correspondence was written between Harvey Rice and his mother while he was in the army from 1917 to 1919. In addition, there are letters from relatives and friends interspersed throughout the collection. The correspondence includes descriptions of people and events in Kansas City, Missouri, 1912-1919; Tecumseh, Kansas, 1912-1916; Hayden, Arizona, 1914-1919; Humboldt, Arizona, 1917-1919. It also contains a vivid description of life on army posts in Kansas, Texas and Arizona during World War I. A major gap in the correspondence, from September 1917 to May 1918, resulted from Harvey's destruction of Charlotte's letters written during those months.

The correspondence between Harvey Rice and Charlotte Burre began in August 1912, around their mutual interest in photography, but included many details of family and social life in Tecumseh, Kansas; Kansas City, Missouri; and Hayden, Arizona.

Employment was a major topic of interest and Charlotte described her work as a stenographer with several firms in Kansas City. Harvey wrote of his employment with the Ray Consolidated Copper Company as a timekeeper for crews of Mexican teamsters; "burro-buster"; blacksmith helper, and auto driver, from 1914-1917. During this time, his letters contained descriptions of the economic development of Hayden, a small Arizona community whose fortunes were tied to the copper industry. With copper in great demand, he wrote enthusiastically of anticipated construction in the town. By the war's end, however, letters from Harvey's parents were filled with news about layoffs and shutdowns at the mill and a decline in population as residents left Hayden to seek employment elsewhere. Harvey's sister Sarah described a similar situation in Humboldt, Arizona.

The letters include a regular exchange of information on wages and wartime inflation of prices in Hayden and Kansas City, from 1914-1919. Unemployment was very high in Missouri between 1913 and 1917, and Charlotte's brothers, Robert and Carrol, sought work in other states and Canada. They wrote home periodically about their experiences. Charlotte wrote about the ways in which the Burre family supported itself during this period. Mr. Rice found intermittent work as a carpenter and the family took in boarders. Charlotte was a stenographer, her sister Hester was employed by the Salvation Army, and her sister Lucy was a governess.

Charlotte's interest in national politics was reflected in her letters. She wrote of the approval of women's suffrage in Kansas in 1912, and speculated that she and her mother might decide to move there. In 1912 and 1916, she wrote about the election of President Woodrow Wilson, describing her family as socialists because they favored the election of socialist Eugene V. Debs. In 1917, as the United States entry into the war loomed closer, she wrote that "great good," such as the freedom of Russia, would come from American action. Both she and Harvey described patriotic demonstrations in their communities. Harvey wrote of draft age men, whom he called slackers, moving to Canada. Harvey and Charlotte had strong views on temperance and it was a frequent topic in their correspondence between 1914 and 1919. They often referred to liquor as "John Barleycorn," and both approved when Arizona went dry in 1916. In 1919, Charlotte wrote that she no longer admired Wilson because he advocated repeal of prohibition.

The correspondence between Charlotte and Harvey and Harvey's parents included discussions of labor strikes in 1917, 1918 and 1919. Strikes at the Ray Consolidated Copper Company mines fueled labor unrest and violence at the Hayden plants. Strikes by Kansas City streetcar workers caused work stoppages and violence there. Strikes delayed construction of buildings and the installation of pipes for heat at Whipple Barracks in Arizona.

The health of the communities in which they lived was a major concern. Charlotte wrote of a quarantine imposed on her family home during a scarlet fever epidemic in Kansas City in 1915. Pneumonia and grippe were widespread in 1917 and 1918. Epidemics of measles, mumps and meningitis were common throughout 1917-1919, and there were frequent references in the letters to hundreds of flu-related deaths in Kansas City and Hayden. Harvey also wrote about a flu epidemic at Ft. Bliss, Texas, where he was stationed in 1918.

Charlotte's letters during the war carry descriptions of home life on the civilian front in Kansa City and the impact of the war on the Burre family. She wrote of her family's concern for her brother, Ed, as he convalesced at home after suffering a nervous breakdown one month after being drafted. She also discussed the family's anxieties about Carrol, who was serving on the front lines in France. A continuing theme in her letters was her work as a bookkeeper and Sunday school teacher for the Lutheran Church and her efforts to recruit new church members.

Harvey was drafted in August 1917 and was sent to Camp Funston, Kansas. In letters to Charlotte and his mother, Kate Rice, he depicted the barracks life of an enlisted man. He disliked camp life which he compared to imprisonment, and his letters were filled with complaints about the drinking and gambling of his fellow soldiers. In 1918, he was transferred to the Ammunitions Trains Division at Ft. Bliss, Texas. While there he complained of frequent headaches and coughing spells. He was diagnosed as tubercular in December of that year and was transferred to the hospital at Whipple Barracks in Arizona for convalescence. He wrote to Charlotte and his mother about hospital routines, his improving health, and such mundane topics as the weather in central Arizona. The three exchanged descriptions of local celebrations of the November 1918 armistice ending the war.

The frequency of correspondence between Charlotte, Harvey and his mother increased in 1918 and 1919. At the end of the war, men were being mustered out of the army and for several months in 1919, Harvey and Charlotte attempted to persuade his parents to sign an affidavit to have him released from the service. The Rice's were reluctant to consent to this because they felt he would receive better care while he remained in the army.

Much of the correspondence written between 1918 and 1919 related to Harvey and Charlotte's approaching marriage and their plans for the future.

A selected index of topics discussed in the correspondence is included in the inventory.

#### **CONTAINER LIST:**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
<b>1</b>	1	Correspondence	August-December 1912
	2	Correspondence	January-May 1913
	3	Correspondence	June-October 1913
	4	Correspondence	November-December 1913
	5	Correspondence	January-May 1914
	6	Correspondence	June-July 1914
	7	Correspondence	August-October 1914
	8	Correspondence	November-December 1914
	9	Correspondence	January-February 1915
	10	Correspondence	March-April 1915
	11	Correspondence	May-June 1915
	12	Correspondence	July-September 1915
	13	Correspondence	October-December 1915

14	Correspondence	January-February 1916
15	Correspondence	March-May 1916
16	Correspondence	June-August 1916
17	Correspondence	September-October 1916
18	Correspondence	November-December 1916
19	Correspondence	January-April 1917
20	Correspondence	May-August 1917
21	Correspondence	September-October 1917
22	Correspondence	November-December 1917
23	Correspondence	January 1918
24	Correspondence	February 1918
25	Correspondence	March 1918
26	Correspondence	April 1918
27	Correspondence	May 1918
28	Correspondence	June 1918
29	Correspondence	July 1918
30	Correspondence	August 1918
31	Correspondence	September 1-20, 1918
32	Correspondence	September 21-30, 1918
33	Correspondence	October 1918
34	Correspondence	November 1-15, 1918
35	Correspondence	November 16-30, 1918
36	Correspondence	December 1-15, 1918
37	Correspondence	December 16-23, 1918
38	Correspondence	December 24-31, 1918
39	Correspondence	January 1-11, 1919
40	Correspondence	January 12-20, 1919
41	Correspondence	January 21-31, 1919
42	Correspondence	February 1-14, 1919
43	Correspondence	February 15-28, 1919
44	Correspondence	March 1-10, 1919
45	Correspondence	March 11-20, 1919
46	Correspondence	March 21-31, 1919
47	Correspondence	April 1-10, 1919
48	Correspondence	April 11-22, 1919
49	Correspondence	April 23-30, 1919
50	Correspondence	May 1-19, 1919
51	Correspondence	May 20-31, 1919
52	Correspondence	June 1-20, 1919
53	Correspondence	June 21-30, 1919
54	Correspondence	July 1-9, 1919
55	Correspondence	July 10-18, 1919
56	Correspondence	July 19-31 1919
57	Correspondence	August-December 1919

Camp Funston, Kansas Description

September ?, 30, 1917  
October 4, 6, 9, 12, 14, 22, 24, 1917  
November 1, 11, 15, 18, 28, 1917

Conscription

May 21, 1917  
July 29, 1917  
August 2, 12, 17, 25, 31, 1917  
September 4, 1917  
March 24, 1918  
November 15, 1918

Demobilization

October 23, 1918  
December 16, 18, 1918  
January 3, 5, 7, 21, 1919  
February 3, 14, 25, 1919  
March 19, 1919  
April 4, 13, 23, 29, 1919  
May 1, 4, 11, 21, 1919  
July 2, 1919

Elections

October 10, 1912  
November 12, 15, 1916  
December 10, 1916

Employment, Hayden, Arizona

January 12, 20, 29, 1915  
February 12, 1915  
March 3, 11, 26, 1915  
June 13, 1915  
September 3, 1915  
November 11, 1915  
December 7, 1915  
January 11, 1916  
February 3, 1916  
March 6, 1916  
July 17, 1916  
August 13, 1916  
October 13, 1916  
January 4, 5, 1917  
February 3, 14, 1917  
April 23, 1917  
January 17, 29, 1919

February 2, 15, 16, 27, 1919  
March 25, 1919

Employment, Kansas City, Missouri

December 1, 1912  
February 23, 1913  
May 18, 1913  
July 13, 1913  
August 31, 1913  
September 28, 1913  
December 30, 1913  
June 6, 26, 1914  
July 21, 1914  
February 17, 1915  
July 23, 1915  
August 15, 1915  
October 16, 1915  
November 7, 1915  
January 25, 1916  
February 15, 29, 1916  
April 10, 1916  
May 6, 1916  
September 8, 1916  
December 19, 1916  
January 3, 1917  
February 21, 23, 1917  
July 4, 1917  
February 18, 1919  
March 23, 25, 1919  
November 9, 1919

Employment, Tecumseh, Kansas

October 5, 1913  
January 25, 1914  
March 22, 1914  
April 23, 1914  
August 30, 1914  
June 27, 1915  
March 2, 1916

Floods, Hayden, Arizona

December 22, 30, 1914  
January 9, 1915  
February 12, 1915  
February 3, 1916

Floods, Kansas City, Missouri

September 10, 1914  
May 31, 1915  
June 27, 1915  
July 23, 1915

Flu, Ft. Bliss, Texas

September 29, 1918  
October 2, 6, 9, 14, 23, 27, 1918  
November 24, 26, 1918

Flu, Hayden, Arizona

February 14, 1918  
October 8, 14, ?, 1918  
November 9, 20, 28, 1918  
December 10, 1918  
January 5, 10, 12, 16, 19, 21, 23, 1919  
July 17, 1919

Flu, Kansas City, Missouri

October 8, 10, 1918  
December 18, 1918  
February 22, 1919  
April 6, 21, 1919

Fort Bliss, Texas Description

January 13, 16, 20, 1918  
February 10, 1918

Fort Bliss, Texas YWCA

February 5, 7, 27, 1918  
December 24, 1918  
January 3, 21, 1919

Grippe

January 9, 1913  
January 5, 15, 1917  
February 3, 1917  
April 7, 1918

Hayden, Arizona Description

March 24, 1914  
December 22, 30, 1914  
January 11, 1916  
July 19, 1918

Hayden, Arizona Development

September 8, 1915  
May 27, 1916  
June 27, 1916  
February 14, 1917  
April 23, 1917  
June 27, 1918  
October 20, 1918  
February 5, 27, 1919  
March 3, 16, 21, 25, 1919  
April 5, 17, 18, 27, 28, 1919  
May 21, 23, 1919  
June 25, 1919 (clipping)

Home remedies

April 2, 1915  
February 1, 1918  
October 7, 1918  
December 24, 1918

Humboldt, Arizona Description

August 17, 1917  
July 19, 1918  
February 18, 1918 employment  
October 30, 1918 flu  
November 24, 1918  
February 15, 1919

Kansas City, Missouri

January 8, 1913  
September 28, 1913  
November 2, 1914  
July 23, 1915  
April 27, 1916  
March 24, 1917  
February 2, 1919  
April 29, 1919  
June 3, 1919

Lutheran Church, Kansas City, Missouri

November 10, 1912  
December 1, 19, 1912  
March 16, 1913  
August 31, 1913  
March 21, 1915  
June 27, 1915

August 15, 1915  
September 15, 1915  
October ?, 16, 1915  
November 7, 1915  
March 16, 1916  
April 10, 1916  
June 30, 1916  
July 24, 1916  
October 16, 1916  
November 22, 1916  
July 1, 1917  
May 19, 1918  
October 7, 1918  
November 24, 1918  
December 6, 22, 1918  
January 21, 28, 1919  
February 2, 15, 16, 1919  
March 14, 1919  
April 9, 13, 15, 21, 1919  
May 11, 20, 25, 29, 30, 31, 1919  
June 4, 10, 13, 18, 28, 1919  
July 7, 20, 1919  
August 5, 25, 1919 wedding invitation

#### Measles

May 6, 1917  
November 10, 11, 20, 1917  
February 1, 4, 1918

#### Meningitis

November 20, 1917  
January 26, 1918  
February 4, 1918  
November 30, 1918

#### Mumps

January 23, 26, 1918  
February 1, 4, 1918  
March 24, 1918

#### Peace

October 13, 1918  
November 10, 11, 12, 13, 20, 1918

#### Photography

January 15, 1912

August 27, 1912  
September 1, 21, 1912 Postal photo  
October 6, 12, 1912 Postal photo  
November 10, 1912  
December 5, 22, 1912 Postal photo  
January 1, 1913  
May 18, 1913  
September 28, 1913  
October 27, 1913  
August 9, 1914  
August 26, 1914 Postal photo  
January 20, 1915  
February 12, 23, 1915  
April 11, 1915  
May 4, 1915  
September 24, 1916

#### Pneumonia

April 6, 1913  
March 16, 1916  
June 30, 1916  
January 5, 15, 1917  
November 3, 1918  
December 23, 1918  
January 12, 1919  
April 6, 1919

#### Prices, Hayden, Arizona

February 12, 1915  
July 3, 1915  
July 17, 1916  
September 24, 1916  
October 5, 1916  
January 15, 1917  
April 23, 1917  
May 21, 1917  
July 21, 1918  
October ?, 1918  
November 9, 1918  
February 27, 1919  
March 14, 1919  
April 18, 1919  
May 16, 23, 1919

#### Prices, Kansas City, Missouri

August 27, 1912

November 10, 1912  
September 10, 1914  
January 22, 1917  
May 6, 1917  
June 19, 1918  
August 2, 1919

Prices, Railroad Fares

March 21, 1918  
June 16, 19, 1918  
December 30, 1918  
June 17, 1919  
August 2, 1919

Prohibition

August 26, 1914  
December 30, 1914  
January 9, 1915  
December 10, 27, 1916  
February 24, 1918  
March 10, 21, 24, 1918  
April 14, 1918  
October 23, 1918  
July 21, 1919

Quarantine, Ft. Bliss

February 14, 1918  
October 2, 16, 20, 27, 1918  
November 3, 13, 15, 1918  
January 10, 1919

Quarantine, Camp Funston

September 30, 1917  
November 1, 4, 10, 11, 20, 1917  
December 16, 28, 1917

Quarantine, Kansas City, Missouri

December 17, 1915

Quarantine, Whipple Barracks

January 24, 1919

Ray Consolidated Copper Company

December 24, 30, 1914  
January 20, 1915  
April 5, 15, 1915

February 10, 1916  
April 5, 27, 1916  
May 27, 1916  
September 8, 1916  
December 10, 27, 1916  
January 15, 21, 1917  
August 27, 1917  
February 14, 1918  
October 13, 20, 1918  
November 10, 1918  
January 5, 17, 19, 21, 29, 1919  
February 2, 15, 23, 1919  
March 8, 25, 1919

Scarlet Fever

December 17, 31, 1915  
November 4, 1917  
January 5, 1919

Social Life, Hayden, Arizona

January 2, 12, 1915  
May 2, 22, 1915  
July 27, 1915  
April 30, 1916  
May 3, 1916  
January 5, 1919

Social Life, Kansas City, Missouri

August 27, 1912  
October 6, 1912  
March 16, 1913  
November 30, 1913  
February 15, 1914  
December 24, 1914  
January 8, 15, 1915  
March 7, 1915  
May 10, 1915  
June 27, 1915  
July 23, 1915  
August 15, 1915  
December 17, 31, 1915  
February 15, 1916  
May 16, 1916  
February 23, 1917  
August 19, 1917  
August 1, 1918



September 3, 1918  
February 10, 16, 1919  
May 19, 1919

Social Life, Tecumseh

October 20, 1912  
December 9, 1912  
December 7, 1913  
March 22, 24, 1914

Strikes, Hayden, Arizona

June 11, 1917  
February 15, 1918  
February 27, 1919

Strikes, Kansas City, Missouri

August 12, 19, 1917  
December 18, 1918  
January 17, 19, 21, 1919  
February 10, 18, 26, 1919  
August 5, 1919

Strikes, Railroad

September 2, 8, 1916  
August 5, 29, 1919

Strikes, Whipple Barracks, Arizona

March 3, 8, 11, 20, 24, 1919

Typhoid

March 4, 1913  
September 30, 1917

Wages, Hayden, Arizona

January 8, 1915  
July 3, 1915  
December 26, 1915  
February 3, 24, 1916  
April 5, 1916  
May 27, 1916  
July 17, 1916  
December 10, 27, 1916  
July 11, 1917  
August 2, 1917  
February 15, 23, 27, 1919

Wages, Kansas City, Missouri

June 24, 1914  
June 30, 1916  
March 24, 1917  
June 23, 1918  
July 26, 1918  
March 25, 1919  
June 4, 1919  
August 5, 1919

War

September 1, 10, 16, 22, 1914  
February 3, 14, 1917  
March 24, 27, 1917  
April 23, 1917  
May 6, 21, 1917  
June 4, 11, 1917  
July 4, 11, 29, 1917  
August 9, 1917  
October 7, 1917  
January 26, 29, 1918  
March 2, 6, 1918  
May 10, 26, 1918  
June 9, 16, 27, 1918  
July 24, 1918  
August 3, 17, 1918  
September 6, 15, 18, 1918  
October 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 20, 1918  
November 3, 5, 10, 13, 1918  
December 2, 9, 15, 18, 1918  
March 16, 27, 1919  
April 18, 21, 1919  
May 3, 24, 1919

Whipple Barracks, Arizona

January 20, 1918  
February 10, 1918 hospital  
March 1, 7, 10, 14, 16, 24, 27, 1919  
April 6, 13, 16, 27, 1919  
May 15, 1919  
June 27, 1919  
July 1, 1919

YMCA

May 13, 1919 opened  
May 24, 1919 dedicated