

Guide to the Lawrence E. and Charlotte Phelps Ruth Papers, 1925-1988, bulk 1941-1945

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Lawrence E. and Charlotte Phelps Ruth Papers, 1925-1988, bulk 1941-1945

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

Collection Number:

1993.039

Author of Finding Aid:

Unidentified; rewritten and reformatted by Sandra L. Wheeler.

Creators:

Ruth, Charlotte Phelps, 1910-1992
Ruth, Lawrence E., 1907-1985

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

1 box ; 0.21 linear feet

Abstract:

The Lawrence E. and Charlotte Phelps Ruth Papers document World War II in New Hampshire and in the American Armed Forces. Charlotte Ruth's diary, kept when she lived in Meredith, NH, and her husband was away, mentions her work and church activities. Materials written by Lawrence Ruth include his basic training diary and letters from abroad. There are a number of letters from Blake Pitcher, who wrote to Charlotte from Italy, where he was with the 64th General Hospital Medical Supply Office.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The Lawrence E. and Charlotte Phelps Ruth Papers were a gift of Roberta Carr in 1993.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed and finding aid written by an unidentified person at an unknown date. The finding aid was rewritten and reformatted by Sandra L. Wheeler in 2015. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Access Restrictions:

Available for research.

Location:

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

Preferred Citation:

Item title, Lawrence E. and Charlotte Phelps Ruth Papers, 1993.039. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed

Collection Overview

Biographical Information

Charlotte Phelps was born in Malden, MA, on July 14, 1910 to George P. Phelps and his wife, Mabel Younglove. She graduated from Keene High School in Keene, NH, and from Keene Teachers College. Charlotte was a teacher in Concord, NH. On March 3, 1942, she married Lawrence E. Ruth, and together had one son, David P. Ruth. She was active in local organizations such as St. Paul's Church, Eastern Star, and the Pierce Brigade. Charlotte died on April 13, 1992 at Concord.

Lawrence Elmer Ruth was born in Colorado on September 27, 1907 to Hamilton Ruth and Goldie Pelz, and was a nurse in the New Hampshire State Hospital in Concord, NH, beginning in 1933. He married at Concord, as his second wife, Charlotte Phelps on March 3, 1942. Lawrence served in World War II, enlisting in Manchester, NH, on June 15, 1942. His World War II service as a nurse was in the Pacific in the 3rd Camp Battalion. He died on April 17, 1985 at Concord.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The Lawrence E. and Charlotte Phelps Ruth Papers contain Charlotte Ruth's diary, kept between 1942 and 1944 while she was living in Meredith, NH, which mentions war news and letters to and from her husband, as well as her daily activities, including work and church. Lawrence kept a daily journal during basic training in Virginia and Texas from June 29 to September 16, 1942.

Also included is correspondence from her husband, Lawrence Ruth, and Blake Pitcher, that relates their wartime experiences. Blake wrote from Italy about conditions at his hospital (he was with the 64th General Hospital Medical Supply Office), volcanic activity, and a palace visit. Other correspondence includes a letter from a pen pal in a textile mill in India, a piece of stationery with an image of the Connecticut River Bridge in Walpole, and a letter from Tony Mancini in Japan. Post-war correspondence includes a letter from Styles Bridges in 1951 responding to Lawrence's comments about the dismissal of General MacArthur.

Papers with the 64th General Hospital include their newsletter "The 64th General Observer," 1942; "Battle Lines," 1945; and "The Roar," 1945.

Arrangement:

The Lawrence E. and Charlotte Phelps Ruth Papers are arranged by genre and author, beginning with Charlotte Phelps Ruth's diary, then incoming and outgoing correspondence in chronological order, then Lawrence E. Ruth's basic training diary, ending with other materials such as receipts.

Contents List**Box 1**

Folder 1	Finding aid
Volume 1	Charlotte P. Ruth diary, 1942-1944
Folder 2	Correspondence, 1925-1939
Folder 3	Correspondence: V-mail, 1943-1945
Folder 4	Correspondence, 1944
Folder 5	Correspondence, 1945 January-April
Folder 6	Correspondence, 1945 May-December
Folder 7	Correspondence, 1947-1988
Folder 8	Lawrence E. Ruth journal, 1942
Folder 9	64 th General Hospital, 1941-1945
Folder 10	Receipts, 1963
Folder 11	Miscellaneous papers, 1945-1963

Subject Terms**People:**

Bridges, Styles, 1898-1961
Pitcher, Blake, 1908-1971
Ruth, Charlotte Phelps, 1910-1992
Ruth, Lawrence E., 1907-1985

Organizations:

United States. Army

Subjects:

Basic training (Military education)

Correspondence

Diaries

World War, 1939-1945

Locations:

Camp Pickett, VA

Concord, NH

Meredith, NH

Italy

Occupations:

Nurses

Soldiers