

KRIEG-CAMPBELL FAMILY RECORDS

PHOTOGRAPHS

| GroupName | Dated |
|-------------|------------------|
| 1930 | 1930-1948 |

Scanned: 2014-03



Laura Philinda Campbell and Family In the 1930s

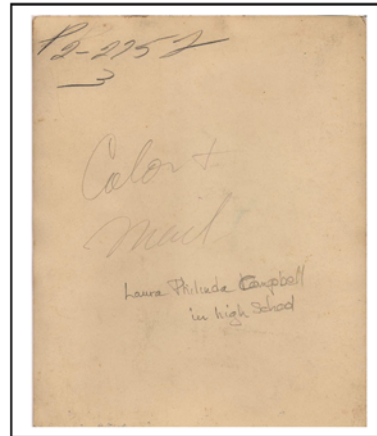


Photo 2-016

Date: 1934 or 1935

Location: Orange, New Jersey

Showing: Laura Philinda Campbell, age 16 or 17

Laura Philinda attended the Beard School in Orange, New Jersey. She always spoke of it as “Miss Baird’s School”. It began as a girls’ school, and continues to exist, but merged (in 1971) with the Morristown (boys’) School. It is now part of the Morristown-Beard School (<http://mbs.net>). Wikipedia has a fairly detailed history of the two schools at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morristown-Beard_School.

Photo 2-016v

Verso of 2-016. In pencil:

“P2-2752 3

Color & Mail”

“Laura Philinda Campbell in high school”



Photo 3-001

Date: 1936

Location: New Jersey

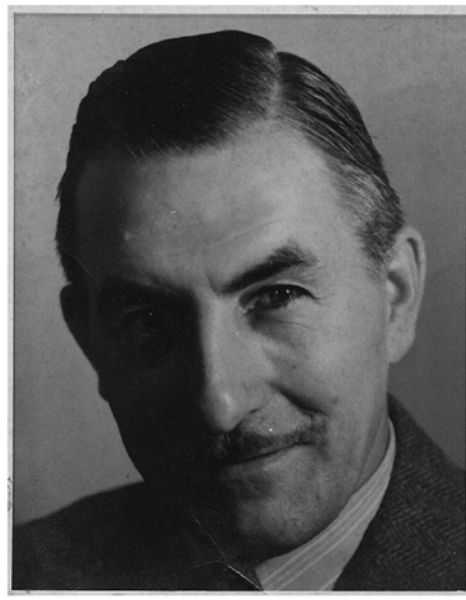
Showing: Laura Philinda Campbell

“These two members of the younger set, Miss Laura Campbell (left ...
Summer in Europe. Miss Hoy is the daughter of Mrs. Albert D. ...
Campbell the daughter of Mrs. James A. Middleton of 412 Hillside ...
[re]cently with her mother after a trip to England and the continent ...
[debu]tante set. Miss Campbell is traveling in France and studying at ...
last June from Miss Beard's School, Orange, and will return i[n] ...”

Photo 4-005 Date: 1948
Showing: John W. Campbell, Sr.
Laura Philinda's father



Photo 2-27 Date: unknown
Showing: James A. Middleton
Laura Philinda's step-father



A little background

Laura Philinda Campbell was born September 2, 1917, in Maplewood, New Jersey. Her father was John Wood Campbell, of Napoleon, Ohio; her mother was Dorothy Strahorn, who I believe was also of Napoleon. Unfortunately, I have no records from the family before Laura Philinda's letters from Paris in 1939, and my mother seldom spoke of it.

We know that John and Dorothy moved to New Jersey, where they lived close to John's work in New York City. He was an electrical engineer and worked his entire career (as far as I know) with American Telephone and Telegraph, ending as one of the Vice Presidents of the corporation.

At some point, Dorothy met James A. Middleton, and fell in love with him. Jimmy, as everyone called him, was born in England and served in the Army during World War I, where he was hit by an artillery shell in the left shoulder. He and Dorothy may have met on one of Dorothy's trips to England; we have photos from a trip in 1926, when Laura Philinda was eight.

By 1936, as the caption of the news clipping on page 3 indicates, Dorothy was Mrs. James A. Middleton. Her separation and divorce from John Campbell led to a considerably unsettled life for Laura Philinda, as well as for her brother John, Jr. One aspect of this was a lot of travel for Laura, and several years without steady schooling. She said she educated herself largely through *The Book of Knowledge*, an encyclopedic work with interestingly written accounts of many subjects, in multiple volumes.

We have no record of her travels, though there are photos taken in Coronado, California (near San Diego) when she was six, as well as the ones in England just mentioned. She spent some time in Mexico – perhaps just one summer, perhaps more. She told of practicing Spanish there (her accent was nearly perfect) and that her best tutors were small boys who would unhesitatingly correct her mistakes with much laughter and amazement that anyone could say such silly things.

After graduating from the Beard School, Laura Philinda entered Swarthmore College and apparently enjoyed it. She has said that she took all the fun courses in her first three years there, saving the hard ones for last. But rather than continue there, she skipped her senior year, went to Paris, and studied more fun things there. I don't have any record of when she went to France, but the letters we have appear to have been written after she had lived there for several months, if not years.

The lack of information about her early life is amply made up for by the voluminous correspondence in her middle years. Her letters from Venezuela and Guatemala are particularly interesting and detailed.