

C Trenholme, William Maclaren (1925-2008), Letters, 1931-1963
3357 1.25 linear feet

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INTRODUCTION

The collection contains personal letters written by Trenholme to his mother, Louise Trenholme Stephens. Trenholme was a naval officer and later a nuclear physicist at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. There are also letters from Trenholme's wife, mother-in-law, and other relatives.

DONOR INFORMATION

The Trenholme Letters were donated to the University of Missouri by Louise Trenholme Stephens and William Maclaren Trenholme on 26 December 1963 (Accession No. 3557).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William Maclaren Trenholme was born on 22 December 1925 to Norman and Louise Trenholme in Columbia, Missouri. Norman died earlier that year and Louise would later marry Frank Fletcher Stephens. Trenholme graduated from University High School in Columbia in 1943 and received a B.E.E. degree from the University of Louisville in 1946, and an M.A. in physics from the University of Missouri in 1948.

He enlisted in the navy in 1943 and later in the Naval Reserves. He served as an officer from 1946 to 1947 and was also called up to active duty during the Korean War. He retired as Lieutenant Commander.

He was employed as a physicist at General Electric from 1948 to 1950 and 1954 to 1961. In 1953, he worked for Tracerlab, Inc. developing nuclear radiation instruments. From 1961 to 1963 he worked as a nuclear physicist at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He moved to Arizona in the mid-1960s and worked on nuclear power plants.

He married Elizabeth (Bette) Southwick in 1950 and they had two children, Alan and Brenda. Trenholme died on 14 June 2008.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Trenholme Letters are arranged chronologically and the bulk of the collection is comprised letters Trenholme wrote to his mother. There are also letters from his wife, mother-in-law, and other relatives. Two cashbooks from his early adulthood as well as news clippings and miscellaneous materials are also present.

The letters are personal in nature and touch on family life, his education and work, and his training and service in the Navy.

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