

Collection #
P 0489

**DAVID ALLERDICE, JR. COLLECTION
CA. 1940–1941**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

**VOLUME OF
COLLECTION:** 1 folder

**COLLECTION
DATES:** Ca. 1940–1941

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NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

On 5 January 1941, David Way Allerdice, Jr. attempted to rescue family members from a fire in their duplex home at 3617 Washington Boulevard in Indianapolis. It is believed that his parents, David Sr. and Cornelia, and his seven-year-old brother Anthony, were asleep when the fire started. David Jr., who had returned from playing in a football game in San Francisco the day before, arrived to his family home after attending a party and discovered the blaze. David Jr. was a student and star football player at Princeton University, but was home in Indianapolis for the holidays. Cornelia and Anthony died of suffocation. David Sr. and David Jr. were taken to Methodist Hospital to be treated for severe burns. David Sr. died five days later.

David Way Allerdice, Jr., was born 2 January 1919 to David Way and Cornelia Simrall Keasbey Allerdice in Indianapolis. He had two brothers, John Graham Simrall Allerdice (12 November 1921–24 January 1982) and Anthony Keasbey Allerdice (born 16 June 1933).

David Allerdice, Sr., was born in Indianapolis on 26 March 1887. He played football for the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor (1907–1909) and then became the youngest coach in the history of the University of Texas at Austin, from 1911–1915. There he met his wife, whose father was a political science professor at the university. Cornelia Allerdice was the daughter of Lindley Miller Keasbey and Cornelia "Nellie" Graham Simrall. She was born 4 November 1897 in Kentucky.

Cornelia and Anthony died 5 January 1941. Their funeral services were held at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Indianapolis. They were buried at Crown Hill Cemetery on 10 January, the day that David Sr. died. He was buried on 13 January. At the time of his death, David Sr. was vice president at Kingan & Co. meat packers.

John Allerdice was spending the night at the home of a friend at the time of the fire. The family of J. L. Rosenstein, who lived on the first floor of the duplex, was unharmed. A friend of David Jr., John Masters, who aided in the attempted rescue, also suffered some burns.

David Jr. attended Shortridge High School, but for his final year he was a student at Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, New Hampshire. He then went to Princeton University in New Jersey, where as a star football player from 1938–1941 he set several records. He enlisted as an aviation cadet in the U.S. Army Air Corps at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis on 29 September 1941. He was enlisted in the Air Force from 22 January 1951 until 15 February 1963, and held the rank of lieutenant colonel. David Jr. died 24 June 1963. He was buried in Crown Hill Cemetery near his parents and brother, Anthony.

Sources:

Items in the collection

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of one black-and-white photograph of David Allerdice, Jr. in his football uniform [ca. 1940], and a photocopy of three newspaper items from January 1941 pertaining to the fire in the Allerdice family home.

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Black-and-white photograph of David Allerdice, Jr. in football helmet and uniform [ca. 1940].

Photocopy of three newspaper items: "Grid Star Is Burned Trying To Save 2 of Family in Fire" from unidentified newspaper, 5 January [1941]; "This Grid Star Burned Severely In Try To Save Brother" from the *Minneapolis Times Tribune*, 6 January 1941, Sport Section, p. 18 (includes photo of Anthony Allerdice); photo of John Allerdice and David Allerdice, Jr. upon the latter's release from the hospital [from the *Minneapolis Star*, 11 January 1941, p. 6].

CONTAINER

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