

Collection #
SC 2985

**MEREDITH NICHOLSON
LETTERS, 1906-1907**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 7 Letters with 4 transmittal envelopes

COLLECTION DATES: 12 February, 1906 – 6 July, 1907

PROVENANCE: Stuart Lutz, Short Hills, New Jersey, July, 2013

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2013.0245

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Meredith Nicholson was born in Crawfordsville, Indiana on 9 December, 1866, to Edward and Emily E. Meredith Nicholson. At the age of six he moved to Indianapolis with his family. In 1896, he married Eugenie Kountze, a native Nebraskan. Although Nicholson never graduated from high school, he became a prolific author whose writings extolled the virtues of the state of Indiana and its citizens. His first work, a collection of poems titled *Short Flights* was published in 1891. Nicholson became known primarily for his essays and novels which include *The Hoosiers*, *A Hoosier Chronicle*, and *The House of a Thousand Candles*. He also spent time as a journalist, both as a reporter and in an editorial capacity. Nicholson was rewarded for his enthusiastic support of the Democratic Party by being selected for several diplomatic positions in South America where he served from 1933-1941. He died in Indianapolis on 21 December 1947, and is buried in Crown Hill Cemetery.

Sources: Russo, Dorothy Ritter and Thelma Louise Sullivan, *Seven Authors of Crawfordsville, Indiana: Lew and Susan Wallace, Maurice and Will Thompson, Mary Hannah and Caroline Virginia Krout and Meredith Nicholson*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1952

Gray, Ralph H, "Hoosier Author as Diplomat," *Indiana Magazine of History* 102 no. 4 (Dec. 2006): 355-369

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Six of these letters, those dated from 12, February, 1906 to 6 July, 1907 and an undated letter (possibly March, 1906), were written by Meredith Nicholson to Frank Graef Darlington. Three were addressed to Darlington in Ontario, Canada, two to Hyannisport, Massachusetts, and one is both undated and unaddressed. Frank Darlington, born in Chester, Pennsylvania on 29 December, 1859, earned a living as a civil engineer. He died in Zanesville, Ohio on February 21, 1918.

The 12 February correspondence is a brief thank-you note, the 15 and 24 April letters discuss Nicholson's health, a new home in the neighborhood, and Democratic politics. The letter of 3 July, 1907 discusses the beautiful weather while the 6 July correspondence refers to an incident that had recently happened as well as prospects for the Republican Party. The undated note was apparently a cover letter asking Darlington for his opinion on the now missing enclosure

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