BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Walter Alexander Groves was born in Germantown, Pennsylvania on March 10, 1898, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Groves. He attended Lafayette College for three years in the army, enlisted and served as a second lieutenant with the field artillery in World War I, then returned to Lafayette, earning an AB in 1919. Undergraduate activities at Lafayette included the Franklin Literary Society, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, the Track team (on which he served as captain), the Cross Country Team, and Phi Beta Kappa. He received an AM from Princeton University in 1922 and a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania in 1925. Groves was a member of the faculty at Lafayette from 1922-1924, teaching history and the Bible.

Estelle Crawford Groves was born in 1905. She attended the University of Pennsylvania. Her family lived in Norristown, PA at the time of her marriage and correspondence home.

On February 28, 1925 Walter and Estelle were married and departed almost immediately for Teheran, Persia to serve as missionaries teaching at the American School of Teheran, also known as the American High School for Boys, latter renamed Alborz College. Referred to at Lafayette as "Lafayette in Persia," the American School was founded and run by Samuel Martin Jordan, Lafayette Class of 1895, under the auspices of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the USA. The relationship with Lafayette was cemented in 1906 (when Jordan returned to the USA on furlough and centered his promotional efforts for fundraising support for the school in Easton) and formalized in 1923 by the Board of Trustees of Lafayette College.

The couple served as missionaries in Teheran until 1940 (with at least one furlough in 1930), during which time Walter held increasing levels of responsibility at the American School. He was registrar from 1925-1931 during which time he also taught religion, ethics, and philosophy, as well as starting and running the school's library. He became dean in 1931 in addition to his previous responsibilities.

The Groveses' tenure in Teheran runs concurrent with the rule of Riza Shah. The Groveses arrived in Teheran after Riza Shah took control of the state by force in 1921, but a year before he was "crowned king," as Walter Groves described the occasion, in 1925. Though outside of the scope of this collection, the Groveses left Teheran when the Allies invaded Iran in 1941, an action that precipitated the abdication of Riza Shah. Walter's letters especially make reference to Persian politics and Persian/American interaction, including the financial mission started by Arthur Millspaugh in 1922 and ended in 1927. Both Groveses make reference to American Minister Hoffman Philip and his wife, as the families interacted socially.

During the period of these letters (1925-1930), three sons were born to Walter and Estelle. Walter Craig Groves, Lafayette College class of 1949, was born in Teheran on February 6, 1927; Warren Olley Groves, Lafayette College class of 1948, was born in Teheran on November 8, 1928; and Robert H. Groves was born on August 1930 in the States while the family was home on furlough.

Upon returning to the States, in 1940, Walter served on the faculty at Centre College in Kentucky, teaching philosophy and religion from 1940-1942 and then serving as professor of theology at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary from 1942-1946. He was awarded an honorary doctorate of divinity by Lafayette in 1945. In1947, he returned to Centre to take the position of President of the College, which he held until 1956. In 1956, he resigned this office to return to the Middle East, and become the president of the new engineering college at Abadan, Iran. He remained there until 1961, when he became dean of the engineering school at Shiraz. He died in 1984.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Walter A. and Estelle Crawford Groves Papers, comprising one cubic foot, consist of 654 pieces of correspondence, primarily letters, written by the couple to their families in Pennsylvania during their first missionary term in Teheran, Persia (Iran). The bulk are letters from Estelle Crawford Groves (Teddy) to her family, though letters from Walter (Buddy) to both his and her parents are included. Other items include letters from Ralph and Harriet Hutchison to the Crawford family; copies of published letters written individually by the Groveses and Hutchisons to home parishes; letters from Walter A. Groves to the alumni of Lafayette College; and telegrams from the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the USA regarding key events.

Primary recipients of the letters (and the names by which they are addressed) include Estelle Groves' parents Estelle Hamilton Crawford (Mother, Mommy, My Dearest Peter) and James Craig Crawford (Daddy, Daddy Jim), her sister Julia Loomis Crawford, and Walter's mother, name.

Letters begin with an in-depth description of the Groveses' and Hutchisons' trip from New York to Teheran beginning with the ocean voyage from New York to Beirut upon the SS *Canada* and continuing on land, with details given of travel methods and cities and stops along the way. Letters are longer and much more frequent in 1925 and 1926, slowing some with the birth of the Groveses' first son and Walter's increasing responsibilities at the school. Significant or repeated threads and topics within the correspondence include:

American Legation: The American minister in Teheran was Hoffman Philip. References made to "the American Legation" in the letters usually refer to the physical location of the embassy. Philip and his wife are referenced directly.

American School of Teheran: This tag indicates any direct reference to the American School of Teheran including but not limited to: daily functions such as staffing and students; facility costs; fundraising needs and gifts including the "Carruthers gift" and a \$250,000 request to Rockefeller made by Hutchison; and interrelations between the school, Lafayette College, and the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church. Also indicates references to students and alumni and the American College football team.

American School of Teheran Girls' School: Almost always referred to as "the Girls' School," the formal name was the Iran Bethel School. Teachers named in the letters include Miss Jane Doolittle, Miss Chase, Charlotte Young, Miss McHenry, Winifred Pomeroy, and Helen Rose. The last two are identified as "three year girls" from Wells College.

American School (of Teheran) Summer Camp at Aveen: Heat and illness made Teheran an uncomfortable and unsafe place in the summer months. Walter Groves and Ralph Hutchison ran an extension of the American School as a summer camp in the mountains near Aveen. The families lived near the boy's camp in summer lodgings that served as a refuge not only for the Groveses and Hutchisons but often also for the Boyces and Jordans.

Estelle Crawford Groves Teaching: Estelle taught religion classes in the Girls' School, Sunday School classes at the mission, and also drawing and ethics at the American School of Teheran. The latter did not happen until after the children were born; specific reference is made to Warren refusing Dr.

Jordan's request for Estelle to teach earlier than that due to concerns for a young, new wife teaching male students, some older than she.

Family and Domestic Notes: As the bulk of the letters are missives home to family, family and domestic notes dominate most letters, especially after the birth of Walter O. Groves. Topics include childrearing, house plans, meal schedules, servants, and chore lists; entertaining, receiving, and other social activities; and notes on illnesses suffered by the Groveses, Hutchisons, and other members of the American community in Teheran, Meshed, and other neighboring missions, including observations on the combination of malaria and pregnancy.

Items from the States: Includes references not only to items needed from home because of unavailability in Persia, but also concerns about shipping and customs.

Lafayette Alumnus/Family: The core group of missionaries who ran and taught at the American School of Teheran were Lafayette alumni. These alumni and their families were part of a very close knit community. This tag is used to indicate a reference to one of the members of the family bearing that name. For example, Boyce may refer to either Arthur or Annie Boyce.

Individuals referenced:

- Samuel Martin Jordan, Lafayette Class of 1895
- Mary Wood Park Jordan
- Arthur Clifton Boyce, Lafayette Class of 1907
- Annie Woodman Stocking Boyce
- William Norris Wysham, Lafayette Class of 1913
- Miriam Graham Wysham
- Ralph Cooper Hutchison, Lafayette Class of 1918
- Harriet Sydney Thompson Hutchison
- Mary Elizabeth Hutchison, born May 25, 1927
- Samuel LeRoy Rambo, Lafayette Class of 1930
- Herrick B. and Charlotte Young, parents of Herrick Jackson Young, Lafayette Class of 1951

Note: references to Walter Craig Groves, Lafayette College Class of 1949 and Warren Olley Groves, Lafayette College Class of 1948, are not indicated here. They are referenced within *Family and Domestic Notes*.

Lafayette College: Indicates mentions of the College, letters written by Walter Groves to the alumni body, or general references to the "three year men" who came to work at the college as temporary staff, outside of the auspices of the Presbyterian Mission Board. Three-year men are indicated by name under the Lafayette Alumnus/Family tag.

Language Study: Lessons in Persian were taken by all missionaries as proficiency was required in order to continue past the second of one's five-year assignment and also for approval to return after one's first furlough home. Several hours a day dedication was expected for the two years until one passed the first proficiency test. The Groveses both comment frequently about language lessons during 1925 and 1926.

Persian Politics and Culture: Includes, but is not limited to, references to airplanes and the airfield in Teheran; American Education minister Arthur Millspaugh; compulsory military service; descriptions and perceptions of daily life in Teheran such as funeral processions, holidays, marriage negotiations, and childrearing practices; foreign relations especially with the French and Russians; the Persian Parliament (Madjless) and other government agencies especially the department of Education; railroad and trains in Teheran and Persia; reflections on Islamic culture and customs and Riza Shah.

Presbyterian Church and Missions: Includes references to the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the USA; formal missionary letters to state-side congregations including copies of "The Church Tidings" newsletter of the First Presbyterian congregation in Norristown, PA; logistics and information about American missions and missionaries in Persia and the specific missionary community in Teheran; references to missionary life such as annual meetings, evangelism, finances, furlough, salaries, and station meetings.

Sermons: Typed sermons written by Walter A. Groves.

Trips and Travel Notes: Reference to travel or trips taken by the Groveses and others to and from Teheran.

University of Pennsylvania: References include mention of Estelle attending Penn and references to sororities and other clubs.

Visiting Missionaries/Scholars: Indicates mention of visiting academic and religious dignitaries.

INVENTORY

Folder

Box 1

1 1918: October 5
Single letter from Warren A. Groves to his mother, written from the Field Artillery Central
Officers Training School (F.A.C.O.S.) at Camp Zachary Taylor, Kentucky on October 4, 1918,

Letters: 1925-1930

2 1925: March

during his time with the 35th Training Battery.

Family and Domestic Notes; Trips and Travel Notes Note: includes photocopy of small card listing names and addresses of individuals to receive special cables.

3 1925: April

Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Hutchison; Trips and Travel Notes.

4 1925: May

American School of Teheran; American School of Teheran Girls' School; American School (of Teheran) Summer Camp at Aveen; Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family:

SKILLMAN LIBRARY LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

Boyce, Hutchison, Jordan, Wysham; Lafayette College; Persian Politics and Culture; Presbyterian Church and Missions; Trips and Travel Notes.

5 1925: June

American Legation; American School of Teheran; American School of Teheran Girls' School; American School (of Teheran) Summer Camp at Aveen; Estelle Crawford Groves Teaching; Family and Domestic Notes; Items from the States; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Boyce, Hutchison, Jordan; Language Study; Persian Politics and Culture; Presbyterian Church and Missions.

6 1925: July

American School of Teheran; American School (of Teheran) Summer Camp at Aveen; Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Boyce, Hutchison, Jordan, Wysham; Language Study; Lafayette College; Presbyterian Church and Missions; Persian Politics and Culture; Visiting Missionaries/Scholars.

7 1925: August

American School of Teheran; American School (of Teheran) Summer Camp at Aveen; Family and Domestic Notes; Items from the States; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Boyce, Hutchison, Jordan; Lafayette College; Persian Politics and Culture; Presbyterian Church and Missions; Trips and Travel Notes.

8 1925: September

American School of Teheran; Estelle Crawford Groves Teaching; Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Boyce, Hutchison, Jordan, Philip S. Hench '16, Atcheson L. Hench '12; Herrick (Ricky) Young. Persian Politics and Culture; Visiting Missionaries/Scholars.

Note: the Herrick Young in these papers was the father of Herrick Jackson Young '51, born September 29, 1929 in Teheran.

9 1925: October

American School of Teheran; American School of Teheran Girls' School; Estelle Crawford Groves Teaching; Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Boyce, Hutchison,

Jordan, Young; Persian Politics and Culture; Presbyterian Church and Missions; Trips and Travel Notes.

10 1925: November

American School of Teheran; American School of Teheran Girl's School; Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Boyce, Hutchison, Jordan; Language Study; Presbyterian Church and Missions; Persian Politics and Culture; Trips and Travel Notes. Also includes items enclosed in specific letters (pressed flower and Christmas card). Copy of photograph moved to folder 56 of Arthur Clifton Boyce '07 and his wife Annie W Stocking Boyce.

11 1925: December

American School of Teheran; American School of Teheran logistics; Estelle Crawford Groves Teaching; Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Boyce, Hutchison, Jordan, Wysham, Young; Language Study; Persian Politics and Culture; Presbyterian Church and Missions; Trips and Travel Notes. Note: December 30, 1925 letter from Estelle comments, "You remember the boy who was a classmate of Buddy in college and who came to see us this summer when we were up country. He has just been made a member of the Magless, or Parliament." Previous reference is from August 12, 1925 letter from Estelle: "Hutch went into the city yesterday and happened to meet a Persian boy who had been in Lafayette College when he and Buddy were there so he invited him to stay with us awhile." Refers to Abdol (Abdul) Hamid Vakeel, Lafayette Class of 1921.

12 1926: January

American Legation; American School of Teheran Girl's School; American School of Teheran; Family and Domestic Notes; Items from the States; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Boyce, Hutchison, Jordan, Vakeel, Wysham, Young; Language Study; Persian Politics and Culture; Presbyterian Church and Missions.

13 1926: February

American School of Teheran; American School of Teheran Girl's School; Estelle Crawford Groves Teaching; Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Hutchison, Jordan, Wysham, Young; Persian Politics and Culture; Presbyterian Church and Missions. Note: additional references to Teheran bread riots and the Persian Youth Newspaper (see folder 54).

14 1926: March

American School of Teheran; American School of Teheran Girl's School; Estelle Crawford Groves Teaching; Family and Domestic Notes; Items from the States; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Boyce, Hutchison, Jordan; Language Study; Persian Politics and Culture; Presbyterian Church and Missions.

15 1926: April

American School of Teheran; Family and Domestic Notes; Items from the States; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Boyce, Hutchison, Jordan, Wysham, Young; Language Study; Persian Politics and Culture; Trips and Travel Notes.

16 1926: May

American School of Teheran; American School (of Teheran) Summer Camp at Aveen; Estelle Crawford Groves Teaching; Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Boyce, Hutchison, Jordan, Young; Language Study; Persian Politics and Culture.

17 1926: June

American Legation; American School of Teheran Girl's School; American School (of Teheran)
Summer Camp at Aveen; Family and Domestic Notes; Items from the States; Lafayette
Alumnus/Family: Hutchison, Jordan; Language Study; Persian Politics and Culture;
Presbyterian Church and Missions; Trips and Travel Notes; Visiting Missionaries/Scholars.

18 1926: July

American Legation; American School (of Teheran) Summer Camp at Aveen, Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Boyce, Hutchison, Jordan; Language Study; Persian Politics and Culture; Presbyterian Church and Missions; Trips and Travel Notes; Visiting Missionaries/Scholars.

19 1926: August

American Legation; American School of Teheran; American School (of Teheran) Summer Camp at Aveen, Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Hutchison, Young; Lafayette College; Persian Politics and Culture; Presbyterian Church and Missions; Trips and Travel Notes.

20 1926: September

American School of Teheran; Family and Domestic Notes including house plan; Estelle Crawford Groves Teaching; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Boyce, Hutchison, Jordan, Wysham; Lafayette College; Language Study; Persian Politics and Culture; Presbyterian Church and Missions; University of Pennsylvania.

21 1926: October

American School of Teheran; Estelle Crawford Groves Teaching; Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Boyce, Hutchison, Jordan; Presbyterian Church and Missions.

22 1926: November

American School of Teheran; Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Boyce, Hutchison, Jordan; Persian Politics and Culture; Presbyterian Church and Missions.

23 1926: December

American Legation; American School of Teheran; Estelle Crawford Groves Teaching; Family and Domestic Notes; Items from the States; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Boyce, Hutchison, Jordan; Wysham; Language Study; Persian Politics and Culture.

24 1927: January

Family and Domestic Notes; Items from the States; Lafayette Alumnus/Family References: Boyce, Hutchison, Young; Language Study; Persian Politics and Culture.

25 1927: February

Family and Domestic Notes; Items from the States; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Hutchison; Wysham; Young; Persian Politics and Culture.

26 1927: March

American School of Teheran; Family and Domestic Notes; Items from the States; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Hutchison; Young; Persian Politics and Culture; Trips and Travel Notes.

27 1927: April

American Legation; American School of Teheran; Family and Domestic Notes; Items From the States; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Boyce, Hutchison, Jordan, Earl Orwig, Tucker [who taught for one year and created the athletic program at American College], an unnamed fraternity brother, the brother of Miss Chase, a teacher at the Girls' School; Persian Politics and Culture; Trips and Travel Notes.

28 1927: May

American Legation; American School of Teheran; American School of Teheran Girls' School; American School (of Teheran) Summer Camp at Aveen; Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Boyce, Hutchison, Jordan, Tucker, Young; Persian Politics and Culture; Visiting Missionaries/Scholars.

29 1927: June

American School of Teheran; American School (of Teheran) Summer Camp at Aveen; Family and Domestic Notes; Items From the States; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Boyce, Jordan, and Hutchison; Language Study; Persian Politics and Culture; Presbyterian Church and Missions.

30 1927: July

American School (of Teheran) Summer Camp at Aveen; Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Hutchison; Items From the States; Persian Politics and Culture; Trips and Travel Notes.

31 1927: August

American School (of Teheran) Summer Camp at Aveen; Family and Domestic Notes; Persian Politics and Culture; Presbyterian Church and Missions; Trips and Travel Notes.

32 1927: September

Estelle Crawford Groves Teaching; Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Boyce, "3 year man" Ed Houghton, Jordan; Persian Politics and Culture. Note: References to Mr. Cliffe, the Chelton Trust Company, Sheldon Potter, and Dr. MacCracken's resignation from Lafayette.

33 1927: October

American School of Teheran; American School of Teheran Girls' School; Estelle Crawford Groves Teaching; Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Boyce, Jordan; Persian Politics and Culture; University of Pennsylvania.

34 1927: November

American School of Teheran; Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Jordan; Persian Politics and Culture.

35 1927: December

Family and Domestic Notes; Persian Politics and Culture.

36 1928: January

American School of Teheran; Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Hutchison, Jordan; Language Study; Persian Politics and Culture.

37 1928: February

American Legation; American School of Teheran; Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Boyce, Merrick Jackson '23, Jordan; Presbyterian Board of Missions; Persian Politics and Culture. Note: In Jackson reference, Walter speaks to Jackson possibly joining American College as treasurer and head of the Department of Business and Commerce, an action that did not place.

38 1928: March

American Legation; Family and Domestic Notes; Presbyterian Board of Missions; Persian Politics and Culture; Trips and Travel Notes.

GROVES, WALTER A. & ESTELLE CRAWFORD GROVES PAPERS: 1925-1930

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39 1928: April

American Legation; American School of Teheran; Estelle Crawford Groves Teaching; Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Young; Persian Politics and Culture; Sermons; University of Pennsylvania.

40 1928: May

American School of Teheran; American School of Teheran Girls' School; Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Hutchison; Persian Politics and Culture.

41 1928: June

American School of Teheran; American School (of Teheran) Summer Camp at Aveen; Family and Domestic Notes; Persian Politics and Culture; Lafayette College; Presbyterian Board of Missions; Sermons. Note: description of "the Passion Play of Persian Islam (The Shia' Sect).

42 1928: July

American Legation; American School (of Teheran) Summer Camp at Aveen; Family and Domestic Notes; Items from the States; Persian Politics and Culture; Presbyterian Board of Missions.

43 1928: August

American School of Teheran; American School (of Teheran) Summer Camp at Aveen; Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Jordan, Young; Presbyterian Board of Missions; Trips and Travel Notes.

44 1928: September

American Legislation; American School of Teheran; Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: "three year men" Hill and Gibson; Persian Politics and Culture.

45 1928: October

Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Boyce, Jordan, and Hutchison; Persian Politics and Culture; Presbyterian Mission Board.

GROVES, WALTER A. & ESTELLE CRAWFORD GROVES PAPERS: 1925-1930

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46 1928: November

Family and Domestic Notes; Note: reference to American electoral politics.

47 1928: December

Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Jordan, Hutchison, and Young; Persian Politics and Culture; Presbyterian Mission Board; Sermon.

48 1929: January & February

American School of Teheran; Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Gibson, Hugh McCarroll, Hoffman, Hill, Hutchison; University of Pennsylvania. Reference to enclosing picture of "Lafayette In Persia" men including Pete Wysham.

49 1929: March & April

American School of Teheran; Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Hutchison, Jordan, Earl "Dutch" Reinsel '20; Persian Politics and Culture; University of Pennsylvania. Note: reference to Rockefeller request.

50 1929: May & June

American School of Teheran; American School of Teheran Girls' School; Family and Domestic Notes; Items from the States; Persian Politics and Culture.

51 1929: July & August

American Legation; American School (of Teheran) Summer Camp at Aveen; Family and Domestic Notes; Persian Politics and Culture; Presbyterian Church and Missions.

52 1929: September & October

American Legation; American School of Teheran; Family and Domestic Notes; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: "three year men" reference to Lee Rambo, Hill, and McCarroll; Hutchison, Jordan, Young; Language Study; Persian Politics and Culture; Visiting Missionaries/Scholars.

GROVES, WALTER A. & ESTELLE CRAWFORD GROVES PAPERS: 1925-1930

SKILLMAN LIBRARY LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

53 1929: November & December

American School of Teheran; Family and Domestic Notes; Items from the States; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Jordan, Rambo; Lafayette College.

54 1930: January & February

American School of Teheran; Family and Domestic Notes; Items from the States; Lafayette Alumnus/Family: Young; Language Study; Persian Politics and Culture.

55 1930: March - May

American School of Teheran; American School of Teheran Girls' School; Family and Domestic Notes; Jordan, Rambo; Persian Politics and Culture.

56 Pictures

57 Miscellaneous

PROVENANCE

The Walter A. and Estelle Crawford Groves papers were received by Lafayette College in June of 2010 as a gift from their second son, Warren O. Groves, Lafayette Class of 1948.

RESOURCES

Centre College, Walter A. Groves Papers
Finding aid available at http://www.centre.edu/web/library/sc/records/cc002 3.html

Lafayette College

Boyce, Arthur C. *Alborz College of Teheran and Dr. Samuel Martin Jordan Founder and President*. Durate, California: Westminster Gardens, 1954. (X1907 B78)