

FRANCES 'PINKIE' WILLIAMS SOCIETY COLUMNS

Provenance: Donated by her family, Sept. 8, 2010.

Size: Approx 2 lin. ft. (1 book 25x20x2.5 inches, plus CD-ROM, copy of her obituary)

Summary: A scrapbook of society column layouts that Pinkie Williams (as Frances Stubblefield) edited for the Wheeling News-Register, 1938-1942. This collection was prepared as a gift for her when she resigned to get married in 1942.

Biographical information: Pinkie Williams was born Nov. 22, 1917 in Charleston, W. Va. She was the granddaughter of newspaper man Herschel C. Ogden. In the 1930s she came to Wheeling to work in the Wheeling News-Register and became editor of the Society Section of the Sunday News-Register.

She left Wheeling when she married John R. Williams in 1942, but they returned in 1950 to join the Ogden Publishing Co.

She worked with Oglebay Institute, historic preservation causes, Linsly School, and served on many community boards.

She died Sept. 6, 2010.

From the Wheeling New-Register

Frances "Pinkie" Stubblefield Williams died peacefully at her home in Wheeling on September 6, 2010 at 6:05 a.m. after a brief illness.

The beloved wife of John Randolph Williams for 68 years, Pinkie was the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Herschel C. and Mary Morehouse Ogden of Wheeling and the late Dr. and Mrs. David Rankin and Hettie Wilkin Stubblefield of Nashville, Tenn.

She was born on November 22, 1917 to the late Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Wilkin and Frances Ogden Stubblefield of Charleston, W.Va.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, September 9 at 11 a.m. at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. Immediately following, the family will greet friends at the Fort Henry Club. Burial will be at 2 p.m. at Greenwood Cemetery. Officiating the services will be The Rev. Richard Skaggs and The Rev. David R. Williams.

In addition to her husband, John, of the home, Pinkie is survived by a sister, Mrs. Margaret Hardy of John's Island, Fla., and by three sons, John Randolph (Nancy) Williams of Chestnut Hill, Pa.; The Rev. David Rankin (Sarah) Williams of Elon, N.C.; Daniel Wilkin (Jennifer Loustau) Williams of West Grove, Pa.; nine grandchildren, Jeremy Williams, John Williams, Lassiter Williams, Lissa Gupton, Sara Tucker, Sean Williams, Britton Williams, Danielle Loustau-Williams, and Christopher Williams; and four great-grandchildren, Peter Williams, Thomas Gupton, Madison Williams, and Louise Frances Tucker. She was predeceased by a sister, Mrs. Ann Muhleman, of Charleston, W.Va.

Educated in the Charleston public schools, Pinkie was a graduate of the Baldwin Preparatory School for girls, Bryn Mawr, Pa., and Ward Belmont Junior College, Nashville, Tenn. Rather than continuing education at Vanderbilt University, the alma mater of her father and paternal grandfather, Pinkie chose to live in Wheeling and care for her widowed maternal grandfather, Mr. H.C. Ogden, learning by his experience the toils of newspaper publishing. She worked in the advertising and news departments of the Wheeling News-Register and demonstrated natural creative and artistic talent as editor of the

Society Section of the Sunday edition.

In early 1942, Pinkie married John R. Williams, a chemical engineer with DuPont in Belle, W.Va., near Charleston. Soon after the birth of their first son, they moved to Wilmington, Del., where John worked in the corporate headquarters of DuPont. In Wilmington, Pinkie and John were blessed by the birth of two more sons.

Pinkie's mother, Mrs. Frances Ogden Stubblefield, who became President of Ogden Newspapers following the death of Mr. H.C. Ogden in 1943, had been urging John for quite some time to leave DuPont and enter the executive staff of the family newspaper group. In 1950 the Williams family moved to Wheeling and Ogden Publishing Company, then managed by the late Mr. Austin V. Wood, attorney.

Throughout her 92 years, Pinkie was known for indefatigable energy, enthusiasm and talent shared generously with numerous local and state organizations. The Arts Committee of Oglebay Institute benefited from her organization in the annual Christmas at the Mansion show, where Pinkie's doll houses, hand-built and decorated in Victorian, Shaker and Colonial styles, were renowned. A regular participant in the Miniature Show at Stifel Fine Arts Center, she was a pioneer and advocate for the historic preservation of Old Wheeling. Among the first to recognize the treasure of the Victorian homes, Pinkie invested in and restored several historic buildings in Old Wheeling. As well, she served on the board of Independence Hall. Pinkie was instrumental in the creation of the historical film of Independence Hall, working with Mr. Ellis Dungan and Mrs. Beverly Fluty in this project, still shown at the Hall and local schools.

Pinkie was expert in needlepoint, for many years designing rugs, pillows and wall hangings for her own and her family's homes. She helped others to advance their interest in needlepoint and operated The Not Shop for 13 years from her home on Hamilton Avenue. The shop then opened in one of Pinkie's restored Victorian houses of North Wheeling.

Among her honors was a commission to design needlepoint covers for the State dining room chairs in the Governor's Mansion in Charleston.

Volunteers enlisted by Pinkie completed the needlework of her original design. Pinkie was also honored to present a solo show of needlepoint and quilts of her own design at the Stifel Fine Arts Center.

In later years, Pinkie offered much volunteer effort to The Linsly School, leading the way for an expansion of the library, named in honor of her grandfather, as well as the renovation of Kuchinka Hall, the redecoration of administration offices, the restoration of Merriman Hall, and the creation of the new Fine Arts Building and Linsly Museum. Pinkie's final assignment was the restoration of the magnificent Holloway home, known more recently as the Dallas Apartments and now DiOrio Alumni Hall of alumni and development offices.

Pinkie served for many years on the boards of the Community Foundation of the Ohio Valley and Independence Hall. A member of Leaf Twig of the Ohio Valley Medical Center, Pinkie's volunteer coordination of Peterson Hospital earned her the Civitan Club's Citizen of the Month award. A cradle Episcopalian, she was active with St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, in 2000 co-chairing a committee with Dr. Alan Fawcett to publish a definitive illustrated history of the parish in celebration of its 190th anniversary year.

Maturity did not deter Pinkie's avid interest in computers, well-mastered despite macular degeneration. Famous among dear family and friends for her custom and personalized "Jo-Pink" greeting cards, Pinkie used computer technology 10 years ago to write her memoir, "How I Got Here," bound and presented to family upon whom she doted, especially her beloved grandchildren and great-

grandchildren.

In her spirit, memorials may be given to the Community Foundation of the Ohio Valley or the charity of one's choice.

Arrangements by Kepner Funeral Home, National Road at Bethany Pike, Wheeling. Personal condolences may be offered to the family at www.kepnerfuneral.com.