



The Urbana Free Library

210 West Green Street • Urbana, Illinois 61801 • 217-367-4057 • [urbanafreelibrary.org](http://urbanafreelibrary.org)

Thusenelda Gross Martin  
and the Gross family, 1905-1988

Collection 220

## Champaign County Historical Archives

**Creator/Corporate name:** Thusenelda Gross Martin and Gross family

**Inclusive Dates:** 1905-1988

**Physical Description:** 4 boxes, 3.75 linear feet

**Provenance:**

Materials relating to Thusenelda Gross Martin and the Gross family were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives. Some materials are from the home of Thusenelda and Elmer Martin. Accession 2021-0088, received from the Champaign County History Museum, contains postcards that were added to the collection March 2022.

**Access:**

The records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

**Biographical/Historical Note:**

William F. Gross (1845-1937) was born in Prussia, Germany. His family emigrated to Canada, and later to Illinois. He was a minister of the Evangelical church and served northwest Illinois. He was married to Charlotte Conrad. Thusenelda Gross Martin (1896-1986) was the youngest of their four children, and was a graduate of the University of Illinois and a science teacher at Urbana High School. She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 71, the Champaign County Humane Society, and the Sierra Group. She married Elmer White Martin (1894-1990) in 1948. Elmer was a building contractor and worked in the University of Illinois Nutrition Lab. He was a member of the American Legion Post No. 71, Urbana.

Revilo Pendleton Oliver (1908-1994) was a professor of Classics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign who was a staunch anti-Communist and wrote extensively on white nationalist causes.

**Scope and Content Note:**

Box 407 contains correspondence, diaries, notebooks, legal documents, news clippings, memorabilia, genealogical records, and photographs from the family of Rev. William F. Gross, dated 1905-1988.

Box 408 contains correspondence, news clippings, pamphlets, and memorabilia, dating from 1935 through the 1970s. There was great concern about Communism and these files reflect how the local community addressed this concern and fear. Topics included are: the Cuban policy, the United States House of Representatives Un-American Activities Committee, Radio Free Europe, the John Birch Society, and the United Nations. Professor Revilo P. Oliver, from the University of Illinois, was very vocal on these topics. He wrote widely and was featured in a Saturday Evening Post article in the 1960s.

Box 409 contains Correspondence, newspaper clippings, financial statements, school notebooks, certificates, photographs, and memorabilia dating from ca. 1910 through 1977.



The Urbana Free Library

210 West Green Street • Urbana, Illinois 61801 • 217-367-4057 • [urbanafreelibrary.org](http://urbanafreelibrary.org)

Thusenelda Gross Martin  
and the Gross family, 1905-1988

Collection 220

Box 2021-0088 contains a collection of various postcards.

**Name terms:**

American Legion. Auxiliary. Post 71  
American Legion. Post 71  
Catenian Association  
Champaign County Humane Society  
Champaign-Urbana Community Schools  
Conrad, Charles  
Conrad, Chester S.  
Conrad, John  
Conrad, Milton H.  
Conrad, William  
Fisher, Sarah  
Gross, Alfred William  
Gross, Beatrice  
Gross, Charlotte Conrad  
Gross, Edward Walter  
Gross, Franz L.  
Gross, Jerome Joseph  
Gross, Llewellyn  
Gross, Louisa  
Gross, Thusenelda  
Gross, William F.  
Harding, Leola  
Hewitt, Rose  
John Birch Society  
Kern, Pearl  
Lincoln School (Urbana, Ill.)  
Lockport Township High School (Lockport, Illinois)  
Loew, C.C.  
Martin, Elmer White  
Martin, Guy W.  
Martin, John L.  
Martin, Sarah Isabelle  
Martin, Thusenelda Gross  
Oliver, Revilo P.  
Radio Free Europe  
Sale, Lillie Belle Partlow



The Urbana Free Library

210 West Green Street • Urbana, Illinois 61801 • 217-367-4057 • [urbanafreelibrary.org](http://urbanafreelibrary.org)

Thusenelda Gross Martin  
and the Gross family, 1905-1988

Collection 220

Schlauder, Charles  
Schlauder, Hattie Conrad  
Shurtz School (Rantoul Township, Ill.)  
Sierra Club. Prairie Group  
Sierra Group  
Simpson, Anna  
Simpson, John  
Speaker, Ed  
United Nations  
United States. Congress. House. Un-American Activities Committee  
United States. Veterans Administration  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Nutrition Lab  
Urbana High School (Urbana, Ill.)  
Urbana School District 116  
Urbana Teachers' Association  
Youmans, Clark  
Zwicker, Beatrice Gross

**Subject terms:**

Albert family  
Conrad family  
Ells family  
Gross family  
Kester family  
Parents' and teachers' associations  
Retired teachers  
Schools  
Schuessler family

**Inventory list:**

**Box 407**

- Conrad, Charles (1877-1956)
  - Correspondence, 1956-1988
- Conrad, Chester S. (1897-1967)
  - Photocopy of news clipping, 1967
- Conrad, John (1830-1919)
  - Photocopies of news clippings, correspondence, legal documents, receipts, genealogical record  
1920-1940
- Conrad, Milton H. (1909-1969)



Thusenelda Gross Martin  
and the Gross family, 1905-1988

Collection 220

- Funeral program, 1969
- Conrad, William
  - Correspondence, 1946-1947
- Gross, Alfred William (1881-1946)
  - Paper for the Alfred Gross Memorial Services, correspondence, photocopies of newspaper clippings, memorial service program, wedding invitations, mailing list, 1924-1947
- Gross, Charlotte Conrad (1856-1907)
  - Correspondence, photocopies of news clippings, 1905
- Gross, Edward Walter (1883-1978)
  - Correspondence, obituary, 1924-1978
- Gross, Franz L. (ca. 1938-?)
  - Birth announcement, photocopies of news clippings, 1961
- Gross, Jerome Joseph (1924-1956)
  - Funeral program, photocopies of obituaries, 1956
- Gross, Llewellyn
  - Commencement invitation, correspondence, photocopies of newspaper clippings, vita, journal articles, 1960-1969
- Gross, Louisa
  - Correspondence, financial statement, 1931
- Gross, Thusenelda (1896-1986)
  - Correspondence, schoolwork, short story, receipts, financial documents, indentures, photograph of banquet, 1912-1949
- Gross, William F. (Rev.) (1845-1937)
  - 2 correspondence tablets, 1923-1927
- Gross, William F. (Rev.) (1845-1937) – Correspondence, biographical sketch, church service, etc.
  - Song lyrics, correspondence, programs, financial statements, biography, notebook, notes, 1947-1962
- Gross, William F. (Rev.) (1845-1937) – Selected sermons
  - Sermons, 1905-1915
- Martin, Elmer W. (1894-1990)
  - Correspondence, clippings, bank books, memorial book of Sarah Isabelle Martin, travel documents, tax returns, 1925-1966
- Martin, Elmer W. (disability claim to the Veteran's Administration) (1942-1944)
  - Correspondence, claim form, 1942-1944
- La Societe des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaus, Champaign County Voiture No. 238 [Letter to Elmer Martin, 1944]
- Martin, Guy W.
  - Memo book, undated
- Martin, John L. [father of Elmer] (?-?)
  - Photocopies of obituaries



The Urbana Free Library

210 West Green Street • Urbana, Illinois 61801 • 217-367-4057 • [urbanafreelibrary.org](http://urbanafreelibrary.org)

Thusenelda Gross Martin  
and the Gross family, 1905-1988

Collection 220

- Martin, Thusenelda Gross
  - Receipt, alumni certificate, check, correspondence, collateral note, photocopies of news clippings, 1948-1966
- Schlauder, Hattie Conrad [sister of Charlotte Conrad Gross]
  - Photocopy of news clipping, correspondence, undated
- Zwicker, Beatrice Gross (1889-1967)
  - Funeral program, church membership, correspondence, will, obituary, photocopies of news clippings, 1934-1967
- Autograph book of Thusenelda Gross, 1907
- Book of essays of the "Adventures of Thusenelda Gross", 1909-1919
- Diary of Thusenelda Gross, 1933-1935
- Correspondence of Thusenelda Gross, 1907-1970
- PHOTOGRAPHS (Many unidentified and undated, but grouped by family)
  - Albert
  - Conrad
  - Ells
  - Gross
  - Gross, Alfred
  - Gross, Franz
  - Gross, Thusenelda
  - Gross, William Frederick (Rev.)
  - Kern, Pearl
  - Kester
  - Martin, Elmer and Thusenelda
  - Morgan, Cathy, Dena and Christine
  - Schlauder, Charles
  - Schuessler
  - Simpson, Anna and John
  - Speaker, Ed
  - Winkler
  - Zwicker
  - Miscellaneous identified photographs
  - Unidentified photographs (4 envelopes)

**Box 408**

- Political correspondence and clippings, 1935-1975
- Undated political materials
- Political newsletters (Catonian Society, Rubicon Review, The New Voice), 1959-1966
- Two booklets about Communism, 1960s
- Oliver, Revilo Pendleton - Writings, activities, political views, 1959-1983



The Urbana Free Library

210 West Green Street • Urbana, Illinois 61801 • 217-367-4057 • [urbanafreelibrary.org](http://urbanafreelibrary.org)

Thusenelda Gross Martin  
and the Gross family, 1905-1988

Collection 220

- Oliver, Revilo Pendleton – Clippings, 1960s
- Water Fluoridation controversy, 1950s-1960s
- American Legion and Auxiliary, Unit 71, 1930s, 1950s-1970s, undated
- American Legion Poppy Volunteer Pin

**Box 409**

HUMANE SOCIETY

- Champaign County Humane Society [history, financial statements, (1962-1965), correspondence], 1951-1977
- Leola Harding tribute [officer of Humane Society], 1975
- City of Urbana Dog Control Ordinance, 1968
- Illinois State Federation of Human Societies – Stationery and cash book, 1955-1962
- Humane Society correspondence: 1947-1978
- Undated clippings regarding the humane treatment of animals

SCHOOLS

- Various school notebooks belonging to Thusenelda Gross, 1910-1918
- Lockport High School class of 1916 [Thusenelda Gross's class]
- Thusenelda Gross teacher's certificate, state of Illinois, 1919
- Shurtz School, Rantoul Township, Class record book [District 135, 1918/19-1920/21]
- Lincoln School, Urbana, Class record book, 1920s?
- Lincoln School, Urbana, student photographs, 1925-27?, 5th grade
- Urbana High School, School song, "Orange and Black," 1915.
- Lillie B. Sale (Mrs. Frank O.), Attendance Officer, Urbana Public Schools, 1902-1932 [History written -by Thusenelda Gross].
- Urbana High School, Class Record Books, 1928-1932 [Physiography/Physiology]
- National High School Band Contest, June 8-10, 1933 [Urbana High School was in competition and won].
- Urbana High School Junior-Senior Prom booklets, 1936, 1937, 1941, 1942
- University of Illinois Class of 1938 (Thusenelda Gross received the master's degree)
- Urbana High School teacher contracts and salary schedules, 1930, 1940-1954/55 (incomplete)
- Urbana High School senior class play program, 1932
- Urbana High School Horseback Riding Club and Riding Letter
- Urbana High School football/basketball clippings, 1938-1940
- Urbana High School Commencement programs: 1939, 1946, 1951, 1955, 1957,
- Urbana High School Daily Attendance/Announcements, 1939, 1940, 1942, 1951, 1952
- Urbana Community Schools, Science Committee, 1940
- Urbana High School Students Victory Corps Survey (1940s)
- Urbana Teachers' Association, Report on School Morale Committee (1940s)
- Urbana High School, Physiology Plan notebook, 1941, [Urbana High School printed on cover]
- Urbana Community Schools: Teacher Tenure Law, 1942; maternity leave policy, 1953
- Urbana Community Schools, tax referendum, 1947
- Urbana High School Request for leave of absence for Thusenelda Gross Martin, 1953



The Urbana Free Library

210 West Green Street • Urbana, Illinois 61801 • 217-367-4057 • [urbanafreelibrary.org](http://urbanafreelibrary.org)

Thusenelda Gross Martin  
and the Gross family, 1905-1988

Collection 220

- Urbana High School faculty assignments: 1928/29; 1952/53-1955/56
- Urbana High School, selected course outlines and final exams given by Thusenelda Gross, 1922-1954
- Urbana High School Teacher's plan book, belonging to Thusenelda Gross, 1951-1953
- Urbana High School assembly notes of Thusenelda Gross
- Urbana High School deans: Sarah Fisher and Clark Youmans
- Urbana Community Schools--Resolution of appreciation to Thusenelda Gross Martin, 1954
- Urbana Teachers' Association Bulletin, May 18, 1954 [Tells that Mrs. Martin is retiring]
- Urbana High School counselor's report, May 12, 1954, from Rose Hewitt
- Urbana High School Teachers' Retirement System of Illinois, Statements of Thusenelda Gross, 1920s-1950s (incomplete)
- Urbana Community Schools, Superintendent's Bulletin, March 24, 1954
- Urbana High School Senior Class Night, June 1, 1957
- Retired Teachers' Association, Champaign County, 1963
- C.C. Loew, superintendent from 1948 to 1960, Urbana Public Schools
- Urbana Public Schools blank cumulative student record form

**Box 2021-0088**

Various postcards