

Minnesota State University, Mankato,

Memorial Library, Southern Minnesota Historical Center.

Kenward, Howard and Helen and Family. Collection, 1941-1945.

SMHC Collection 0290

Kenward, Howard and Helen and Family, 1941-1945. SMHC Manuscript Collection 0290. 2 Archives Boxes and a ½ Hollinger box, 2.25 cubic feet.

ABSTRACT:

The Howard, Helen and Family collection primarily consists of letters and personal correspondence between Howard and Helen—husband and wife—during Howard’s military service domestic and abroad. The collection is supplemented by official military documents as well as photographs and souvenirs from Howard’s travels with the Army. Newspaper clippings mentioning Howard’s service are included, as are memoirs and diary entries from Helen. Lastly, a digitized photo album depicts the lives and family of the couple.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Howard Kenward was born in 1914 to parents Robert and Elsie Kenward and graduated from Mankato High School in 1932. He was drafted into military service in 1941 and served until 1945, during which he traveled domestically to California and Washington state and then overseas to North Africa and Italy—specifically Sicily and Anzio. He was wounded in action and received the Purple Heart, at which point he was reassigned to a non-combat position. He also contracted malaria. After returning home from the war, he worked for Minnesota Supply Company until he started United Supply with his partners in Mankato. He retired in 1977 and was a member of numerous community organizations such as the VFW, American Legion, Moose Lodge, Disabled American Veterans and Our Saviors Lutheran Church. Howard passed away in 1991 after a car crash.

Howard’s wife, Helen, was born in 1919 to parents Robert and Anna Schostag and graduated from Mankato High School and subsequently Mankato Commercial College. She was a bookkeeper and stenographer for various Mankato businesses and a longstanding member of Our Saviors Lutheran Church and library guild. She later joined the Hosana Lutheran Church. Helen moved in with her parents in St. Claire, Minnesota when Howard first left, which meant she drove ten miles to and from Mankato to work every day. Once gas rationing began, though, she moved into an apartment in Mankato. Howard had only married Helen a few months before he was drafted, so shortly after he returned from the war, the couple bought a house in Mankato and began growing their family which ultimately included five children: two sons and three daughters. The sons were Robert and Todd, and their daughters were Ann, Mary and Barbara. With Howard back from service, Helen happily returned home from the workforce to be a devoted wife and soon-to-be mother. Howard’s government stipend as well as his job at an automotive parts company supported the family well. Even though Howard became the new breadwinner of the family, Helen took care of the finances and made sure the family lived within their means.

Helen’s Obituary: <https://www.mankatomortuary.com/obituaries/6024596>

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

There are two series in the collection.

Series One: Correspondence consists of correspondence and is arranged first by date of postage (year then month), then alphabetically by sender.

Series Two: Memorabilia and Photographs consists of Howard's military documents, souvenirs, newspaper clippings relevant to Howard's service, photographs, and memoirs from Helen.

RESTRICTIONS:

There are no restrictions on use of this collection for research purposes. The researcher assumes full responsibility for observing all copyright, property and libel laws as they apply.

COLLECTION CITATION:

This collection should be cited as:

Kenward, Howard and Helen and Family. Collection, 1941-1945. SMHC Manuscript Collection 0290. Southern Minnesota Historical Center, Memorial Library, Minnesota State University, Mankato.

ACQUISITION:

Mary Kosberg donated this collection in August 2021.

PROCESSED BY:

Andy Metcalf processed this collection in September 2023.

RELATED COLLECTIONS:

It has been determined that there are no similar manuscript collections about the Kenward, Howard and Helen and Family, 1941-1945 Collection available elsewhere.

LCSH SUBJECT HEADINGS:

World War, 1939-1945 -- Minnesota
World War, 1939-1945 -- Correspondence
Kenward, Howard, 1914-1991
Kenward, Helen, 1919-2005
Mankato (Minn.)

SMHC Manuscript Collection 0290	Box	Folder
Series 1: Correspondence		
Correspondence, 1941, April, Helen; Helen and Howard	1	1
Correspondence, 1941, May, Helen	1	2
Correspondence, 1941, June, Helen	1	3
Correspondence, 1941, July, Helen	1	4
Correspondence, 1941, July, Howard	1	5
Correspondence, 1941, August, Helen (part 1)	1	6
Correspondence, 1941, August, Helen (part 2)	1	7
Correspondence, 1941, August, Howard (part 1)	1	8
Correspondence, 1941, August, Howard (part 2)	1	9
Correspondence, 1941, August, Howard's Family and Friends	1	10
Correspondence, 1941, September, Helen (part 1)	1	11
Correspondence, 1941, September, Helen (part2)	1	12
Correspondence, 1941, September, Howard	1	13
Correspondence, 1941, September, Howard's Family	1	14
Correspondence, 1941, October, Helen (part1)	1	15
Correspondence, 1941, October, Helen (part 2)	1	16
Correspondence, 1941, October, Howard	1	17
Correspondence, 1941, October, Howard's Family	1	18
Correspondence, 1941, November, Helen (part 1)	1	19
Correspondence, 1941, November, Helen (part 2)	1	20
Correspondence, 1941, November, Howard	1	21
Correspondence, 1941, November, Howard's Family	1	22
Correspondence, 1941, December, Helen	1	23
Correspondence, 1941, December, Howard	1	24
Correspondence, 1941, December, Howard's Family	1	25
Correspondence, 1942, January, Howard (part 1)	1	26
Correspondence, 1942, January, Howard (part 2)	1	27
Correspondence, 1942, February, Howard	1	28
Correspondence, 1942, March, Howard	1	29
Correspondence, 1942, April, Howard	1	30
Correspondence, 1942, May, Howard (part 1)	2	1
Correspondence, 1942, May, Howard (part 2)	2	2
Correspondence, 1942, June, Helen	2	3
Correspondence, 1942, June, Helen and Howard's Parents	2	4
Correspondence, 1942, June, Howard	2	5
Correspondence, 1942, July, Howard (part 1)	2	6
Correspondence, 1942, July, Howard (part 2)	2	7
Correspondence, 1942, August, Howard	2	8

Correspondence, 1942, September, Howard	2	9
Correspondence, 1942, October, Helen	2	10
Correspondence, 1942, October, Howard	2	11
Correspondence, 1942, October, Howard's Parents	2	12
Correspondence, 1942, November, Howard	2	13
Correspondence, 1942, December, Howard	2	14
Correspondence, 1943, January, Howard	2	15
Correspondence, 1943, February, Howard	2	16
Correspondence, 1943, March, Howard	2	17
Correspondence, 1943, April, Howard	2	18
Correspondence, 1943, May, Howard	2	19
Correspondence, 1943, June, Howard	2	20
Correspondence, 1943, July, Howard	2	21
Correspondence, 1943, August, Howard	2	22
Correspondence, 1943, September, Howard	2	23
Correspondence, 1943, October, Howard	2	24
Correspondence, 1943, November, Howard	2	25
Correspondence, 1943, December, Helen	2	26
Correspondence, 1943, December, Howard	2	27
Correspondence, 1944, January, Helen	2	28
Correspondence, 1944, January, Howard	2	29
Correspondence, 1944, February, Helen	2	30
Correspondence, 1944, February, Howard	2	31
Correspondence, 1944, March, Howard	2	32
Correspondence, 1944, April-December, Howard	3	1
Correspondence, 1944, April, Howard	2	33
Correspondence, 1944, May, Howard	2	34
Correspondence, 1944, June, Howard	2	35
Correspondence, 1944, July, Howard	2	36
Correspondence, 1944, August, Howard	2	37
Correspondence, 1944, September, Howard	2	38
Correspondence, 1944, October, Howard	2	39
Correspondence, 1944, November, Howard	2	40
Correspondence, 1944, December, Howard	2	41
Correspondence, 1945, January, Howard	2	42
Correspondence, 1945, February, Howard	2	43
Correspondence, 1945, March, Howard	2	44
Correspondence, 1945, April, Howard	2	45
Correspondence, 1945, May, Howard	2	46
Series 2: Memorabilia and Photographs		
Valentine's Card, Undated	2	47

Howard and Helen Kenward Family, Scrapbook, 1913-1964, CD	3	8
Military Documents	3	2
Newspaper Clippings and Periodicals	3	3
Photographs, Howard and Family and Paratrooper, 1941-1945	3	4
Foreign Currency	3	5
Italian Souvenirs	3	6
Non-military Papers and Memoirs	3	7