



**MCDONOGH SCHOOL**  
**Archives & Special Collections**

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**Guide to the  
Collection of Marbury L. Councill,  
Class of 1910**



Processed by Christine Ameduri, Archivist  
January 2022



## MS-09: The Marbury L. Councill Collection

(1 Box; 0.45 cubic feet)

**Inclusive Dates:** c. 1908-1981

**Bulk Dates:** c. 1908-1918

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### Provenance

Materials originally donated by Marbury L. Councill, (n.d.) but were dispersed into various files and collections over the years.

### Biography

Marbury Layton Councill was born in Baltimore, Maryland on January 26, 1894 to Rhodes Hemmons and Elizabeth White Councill. He attended Baltimore public schools through the fourth grade, and entered McDonogh School on October 9, 1905, as student "no. 1117." The November 13, 1905 minutes of the Board of Trustees note that the Committee on Education reported that Councill was one of the "boys...appointed to fill vacancies."

During his five years at McDonogh, he served as a Third Sergeant in Company B, played baseball and football, was a member of the Glee Club, and was in the chorus in the musical, *Pinafore*, in 1908. Upon graduation in 1910, he took a job as a clerk with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and stayed there until taking a position at the banking and brokerage offices of Poe & Davies in Baltimore in 1917. He was also a member of the McDonogh Alumni Football Club.

In January 1918 he applied for admission to the Aviation Section, U. S. Signal Corps. and was sworn in that same month – one of only four out of 20 in his class that passed the examination. While waiting for his orders, he took a "six-week class for flyers...in preliminary ground work" at Johns Hopkins University. After 12 weeks of training at the School of Military Aeronautics at Cornell University, he was ordered to Camp Dick in Dallas, Texas, where he volunteered to train as a bomber pilot. He continued his training at Ellington Field, Houston, Texas, and was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant that December. Since the War had effectively ended the previous month, he was honorably discharged on the same day he was commissioned and put on the reserve list.

In 1920, he took a job as a salesman for W. B. Cassell Company in Baltimore where he stayed for 35 years. In September 1922, Councill married Annie Elizabeth Stevens and together they had two sons, Marbury and Thomas. When World War II began, he was called back into service as a Major, and reported for duty to Pope Field at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, as Supervisor of Services until the end of the War. He retired January 1, 1959, and died November 27, 1987.

## **Scope & Content Notes**

The strength of this small collection are Councill's informative and often entertaining letters written in 1918, first while studying at the U. S. Army School of Military Aeronautics at Cornell University, and then while stationed at Camp Dick, Dallas, Texas, and Ellington Field in Houston, Texas. In them, he details his schooling at Cornell, his travel by train to Camp Dick via Buffalo, Indianapolis, St. Louis and "other small towns in Kansas and Oklahoma", and, his training as a bomber pilot while stationed at Ellington Field; "Bombs have been dropping so fast[,] the grass has caught fire and the fire dept[.] is on the job." He writes often of the activities of daily camp life, the weather, "If the place below is any hotter than it is here it would pay one to be good", he quips in a letter from August 4, 1918, and frequently mentioned McDonogh classmates he has seen or has news of, as well as requests *The Week* to be sent to him.

While this collection only contains 15 of the original letters Councill wrote to Duncan C. Lyle, many more of them were published in *The Week* and can be read here: **VFM-14: Councill, Marbury L. Class of 1910. Lyle Scrapbook**.

### **Box 1 of 1**

#### **1-1 Correspondence: December 1917-January 1919**

May 3, 1917	McDonogh, MD: Letter recommending M. L. Councill for aviation corps from Charles H. Grace, McDonogh faculty member.
December 10, 1917	Poe & Davies, Bankers and Brokers, Baltimore, MD: Dear Mr. Lyle
January 3, 1918	Baltimore, MD: Dear Mr. Lyle
May 11, 1918	U.S. Army School of Military Aeronautics at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY: Dear Mr. Lyle
June 15, 1918	U.S. Army School of Military Aeronautics at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY: Dear Mr. Lyle
July 30, 1918	U.S. Army School of Military Aeronautics at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY: Dear Mr. Lyle
August 4, 1918	Camp Dick, Dallas, TX: Dear Mr. Lyle
September 5, 1918	Ellington Field, Houston, TX: Dear Mr. Lyle
September 15, 1918	Ellington Field, Houston, TX: Dear Mr. Lyle
October 18, 1918	Ellington Field, Houston, TX: Dear Mr. Lyle
January 28, 1919	Poe & Davies, Bankers and Brokers, Baltimore, MD: Dear Mr. Lyle

#### **1-2 Correspondence: February 1920, 1942 and n.d.**

February 23, 1920	Jacob V. Cohn and Bro., Baltimore, MD: Dear Mr. Lyle
February 25, 1920	(Postcard), Baltimore, MD: Dear Mr. Lyle
November 12, 1942	[Pope Field, Fort Bragg, NC], Dear Major! (L. E. Lamborn)
n.d.	706 N. Fulton, Baltimore, MD: Dear Mr. Lyle

**1-3**      Photographs of Marbury in uniform at Cornell University, Ellington Field, Houston, TX and Pope Field, Fort Bragg, NC, 1918 and c. 1942; photographs of airplane crash, Ellington Field, 1918.

**1-4** Photographs – Garrison [Athletic Club] vs. Mt. Washington football game, c. 1914-1918; individual and group photos of Garrison Athletic Club team members in football uniforms, c. 1914 – 1918; McDonogh baseball team photograph, c. 1908 – 1910; Virginia Athletic Club team photograph of McDonogh alumni, 1912.

**1-5** Programs – *H. M. S. Pinafore as presented by the McDonogh School Opera Company, Friday, April 10, 1908* and, *Testimonial Dinner Celebrating the Eightieth Birthday of McDonogh's Grand Old Man, Mr. D. C. Lyle, by McDonogh Alumni Association, Merchants Club, Baltimore, June 16, 1927*.

**1-6** Photocopies - Two *McDonogh School Application for Admission of Pupil*, (May 31, 1905 and June 29, 1905), two alumni questionnaires, 1935 & 1955, and one newspaper clipping, "Will Teach Aviation; Johns Hopkins To Start Class For Fliers Next Monday", [Baltimore Sun[?]], c. 1917-1918.

**1-7** Miscellaneous – photograph of "Old Main" McDonogh School, c. 1885-1895; McDonogh School official acceptance notecard with envelope to Marbury Councill, October 1905; several handwritten notes in D. C. Lyle's hand, regarding misc. information about Councill; leather patch for Troop Carrier Command (WWII); typewritten letter dated February 20, 1981, to Marbury Councill from Frederick C. "Butch" Maisel, III, requesting information about Councill's WWI and WWII experiences, and a handwritten note from Councill responding to Maisel's request, n.d.