

# Millikin University Archives: Staley Library

## **Catherine and Kenneth Stilwell Collection**

**Collection Number:** 5.03mu.110

**Inclusive Dates:** 1935 – 2003

**Bulk Dates:** 1949 – 1960

**Quantity:** 2 Scrapbooks, 1 large manila envelope.

**Acquisition Information:** Carolyn Stilwell (daughter of Catherine and Kenneth)  
August 8, 2009.

**Access Restrictions:** This collection is open for research

**Copyright:** Millikin University, Wiley Photograph, Time Magazine, Village Presbyterian Church, The New York Times, American Oil Company, Russian Bear Restaurant and Bar, Boston Symphony Orchestra, University of Illinois, The Wilsonian, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, St. Olaf Lutheran Choir, Decatur Herald and Review, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Northwestern University, New York Philharmonic, Bill Kileen photography.

**Photographs:** Yes. A large number of photographs are present within this collection. Photographs vary in size and type. Majority of photographs are in black and white, a small number of photographs are in color. Some photographs have relevant dates, people, events, or locations written on the back of the image. Photographs range in size and most photographs are loose within the scrapbooks.

**Condition Notes:** Majority of collection is in excellent condition. Some of the newspaper clippings are brittle or torn, but this is minor. Some photographs have wear marks around the edges, but otherwise all photographs are in good condition.

**Processed by:** Lisa Hill, September 2018.

### **Biographical Note:**

Kenneth Stilwell was born September 12, 1912 in Carmi, Illinois. During WWII, he served as concert band director for the Navy Seabees in the South Pacific, and after his return from the war, worked as a music instructor for the Decatur School District from 1946 to 1972. Kenneth was a member of the Decatur Municipal Band for more than 40 years, and an elder at Westminster Presbyterian Church, where he sang tenor in the choir for more than 50 years. He died January 19, 2003.

Catherine Williams was born October 4, 1915 in Grayville, Illinois. On June 23, 1941, Catherine married Kenneth Stilwell. Catherine earned an Associates degree from William

Woods College in Fulton, Missouri. She then went on to receive her B.A. in Music Education from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Catherine studied piano for one year in Paris, France and also served as a counselor at Interlochen Music Camp in Michigan. She taught music in the public schools of Grayville, Carmi, and Mt. Zion, Illinois and private piano lessons at the Millikin University Preparatory Department. Catherine was a deacon and elder at Westminster Presbyterian church, and sang in its choir for more than 50 years. Catherine died February 1, 2009

**Scope and Content Note:**

This collection features ephemera from the Stilwell’s time teaching in the Decatur area. Areas of focus are the Decatur Municipal Band, Decatur Public School Band and Orchestra, the Millikin Preparatory School, and Mt. Zion Public School Band and Orchestra.

**Series Notes**

*Series 1: Scrapbooks*

2 items

2 bound scrapbooks of photos, postcards, programs, and news clippings. Contents appear to be arranged in chronological order.

*Series 2: Photographs*

1 envelope

Loose photographs of school bands and orchestras. No clear order of arrangement.

**Collection Inventory**

<b>Folder/Item Title</b>	<b>Container #</b>	<b>Folder/Item #</b>	<b>Description</b>
Scrapbook	F-0026	1	This scrapbook is filled with loose photographs, primarily towards the front of the scrapbook (rehoused in envelopes) of assorted public school bands and orchestras. A small collection of Stilwell family photographs is also present. These photos are loose and towards the back of the scrapbook. Some photographs are dated, but most are not.

Scrapbook	F-0026	2	This scrapbook is focused mostly on the events and activities the Stilwell family participated in during their free time. It includes ephemera from trips, and programs from Broadway musicals and local productions. Post cards, menus, and maps make up most of this scrap book's ephemera.
Photographs	F-0026	3	An envelope of loose photographs of student music groups and performances. Some of these photographs are still attached to their mounting boards. Other photos have fallen off the boards, leaving an old glue film behind.