

Sturgis Library Archives

MS. 176

Paul Swayze Keavy World War II Letters, 1943-1945

Extent: 1 box

Scope and Content Note: The collection consists of original letters and postcards from Paul Swayze Keavy to his parents and family members while serving in the military. His brother Sam Keavy was also serving in the military at the time. The letters date from 1943 through 1945. In addition to the original letters, there is a copy of a book compiled and written by Paul's daughter Eileen Keavy Smith, entitled *Land & Sea: The World War II Adventures of a Cape Cod Boy*. Eileen transcribes the letters and adds commentary and biographical information. It also includes photographs of the family and images of some of the postcards and greeting cards. Not all of the original letters from this collection were transcribed in the book.

Biographical note: Paul Keavy was the son of Lisabel "Lisa" and Vincent Keavy, and brother of Sam and Vincent "Hotsy" Keavy and Mary Keavy Field. He was born on Nantucket in 1923, and his family moved to Hyannis Port around 1927. After returning to Cape Cod from a tour of duty in the Philippines during World War II, he married Dorothy "Dotty" Anshewitz in 1947, and had five children: Eileen, Michael, Stephen, David, and Kathleen. The family lived in Maryland and Virginia, but kept close ties with Paul's family, and gathered with them on Cape Cod in the summers. Paul died in 1976 at the age of 52 from complications after ulcer surgery.

Paul's brother Sam Keavy was also stationed in the Pacific. Upon return to the states, he attended Brown University, and married Jean Russell of Milton, Massachusetts. They had four children. After retirement from IBM, he returned to Cape Cod and settled in Barnstable, and became an antiques dealer and appraiser. Sam died in 2018.

Access: Unrestricted. Credit Sturgis Library Archives for publication purposes.

Acquisition: Gift of Eileen Keavy Smith, January 2021.

Processed by: Lucy Loomis, January 2021.

CONTENTS:

- *Land & Sea: The World War II Adventures of a Cape Cod Boy*, compiled and written by Eileen Keavy Smith.
- Letters, 1943 (39 letters)
- Letters, 1944 (39 letters)
- Letters, 1945 (45 letters)