Mary Fox Herling was born in New York City on December 12, 1893 and grew up in Montclair, New Jersey. After graduation from Vassar College and a year at Oxford University, she taught first in a private school in Colorado Springs and later in Chicago’s Francis Parker School and the Brooklyn Ethical Culture School.

During the 1930s Mary Fox, a member of the Socialist Party, served as executive secretary of the League for Industrial Democracy, recruiting field workers, editing its pictorial magazine, *The Unemployed*, and establishing a series of national lectures and chautauquas. She also established and managed Bleecker Gardens in Greenwich Village, a major conversion of tenements into housing for artists and writers. In the late 1930s she was active in the movement to aid refugees from Hitler’s Europe, helping to organize the American Friends for German Freedom.

She moved to Washington, D. C. in 1941 and during World War II worked as an administrator for the cooperative housing section of the War Labor Board, which later became the Federal Public Housing Authority. After the war she served as administrative secretary for the Washington Newspaper Guild and then as president and driving force of Group Housing Cooperative, whose members bought an old golf course in Bethesda, Maryland and built the Bannockburn community.

In 1925 Mary Fox married labor publicist and author Benjamin Stolberg. They had a son, David, divorcing in 1929, and in 1937 she married labor writer John Herling. Mary Fox Herling died in Bethesda, Maryland on November 4, 1978.

The papers of Mary Fox Herling consist largely of personal correspondence with family and friends and reflect to a lesser extent her professional activities with the League for Industrial Democracy, the War Labor Board and the cooperative housing movement. Related material may be found in the John Herling Collection.

The cost of processing the Mary Fox Herling papers was underwritten by a gift from the estate of John Herling.

**Important subjects in the collection:**
American Friends for German Freedom
Bannockburn Cooperators, Inc.
Housing, Cooperative--United States
League for Industrial Democracy
Refugees--World War, 1939-1945
Socialist Party U.S.A.

**Important correspondents in the collection:**

Austen Albu
Mary Blanshard
Anna Caples
McAlister Coleman
George C. Edwards, Jr.
Marie Feiler
Ruth Fox
Ruth Schechter Gold
John Herling
Kurt Lachmann
Jennie Lee
Frank Loeb
H. L. Mitchell
David Stolberg
Norman Thomas

**Non-manuscript material:**

A few photographs of Mary Fox, John Herling, the David Stolberg family and the Austen Albu family have been transferred to the Archives Audiovisual Department.
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Series II, General Correspondence, 1930s-1970s, Boxes 5-7

Series III, Subject Files, 1914-1980, Boxes 7-9
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5. Case, Lelia Fox, 1950s
6-9. Case, Lelia Fox, 1960-70

Box 2

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3. Ducas, Jacques and Nettie Herling, and family, 1954-69
4. Fox, Barbara (Bob) Condit, n.d.
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**General Correspondence, 1930s-1970s**

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7. Labor Problem: Outline for Reading and Study by Herbert Elmer Mills, 1915
9. National Sharecroppers Week, 1940-42
10. Norman Thomas Scholarship in Memory of Mary Fox Herling, 1979-80
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13. Stolberg, Benjamin; death and estate, 1951
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