

Register of the

M. Bessie DeGraw Papers

Collection 339

Center for Adventist Research
James White Library
Andrews University
Berrien Springs, MI 49014 -1440
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Processed by: Emmanuel Abar

M. Bessie DeGraw Papers

Scope and Content

Biography

M. Bessie DeGraw was born in Binghamton, New York, January 13, 1871, later moving to Missouri. She graduated from the Missouri state normal college at Warrensburg with a life certificate (education). She taught school in Missouri and then in 1892 attended Battle Creek College. After one year she moved to Walla Walla College to teach for four years before returning to Battle Creek College to teach for four more years. When the college moved to Berrien Springs, Michigan in 1901 and became Emmanuel Missionary College (EMC) she moved with it and taught for three additional years.

It was at Battle Creek College that DeGraw became associated with Edward A. Sutherland and Percy T. Magan, men who were to have a huge influence on the rest of her life. Together, they left EMC and in 1904 founded a self-supporting school at Madison, Tennessee. It was at Madison that DeGraw served and lived the next 60 years of her life filling many roles there including teacher, treasurer, dean of girls, and humbler tasks such as care of the poultry flock. She worked side by side with Sutherland, Magan, and others associated with the Madison self-supporting initiative.

In 1931, at age 60, DeGraw earned a Master's Degree in Teaching from George Peabody College. At EMC, beginning in 1899, DeGraw edited *The Advocate*, a journal focused on reforming Adventist education to be along the lines of what Ellen G. White presented as God's plan for education. Later she edited *The Madison Survey*, a news magazine of happenings at Madison College and related institutions.

In 1954, Edward A. Sutherland's wife of many years died. Soon after that Sutherland and DeGraw quietly married but he died the following year. DeGraw died on June 7, 1965, age 94.

Content

This collection was 100% spun out of a much larger Madison Institutions Collection held by the Center for Adventist Research. The bulk of the papers came to the Center in 2013 from the Madison Alumni Association. However, some additional papers were previously held by the Center and were brought together to form this collection.

Madison and DeGraw were extensively interwoven and thus difficult if not impossible to separate business from personal. Portions of the papers in this collection could just as easily be in the larger Madison Collection—see Collection 167. Likewise, portions of the papers comprising the Madison Collection could be in this personal collection.

DeGraw's graduate program materials from her time at George Peabody College for Teachers seem more personal. Her class notes comprise the largest portion of the collection. There is also a copy of her thesis. We cannot tell if it is the final version.

The items of possible greatest interest are her notes from two Annual Conference of Self-Supporting Institutions, 1926 and 1928, as well as a few notes from the Colorado Educational Conference of 1923. These inventory lists the other papers contained in this collection.

Arrangement

This collection came out of a larger body of materials, which themselves were not well organized, so the arrangement is imposed by the Center. The structure can be readily ascertained by a review of the following Inventory. It should again be noted that portions of this collection could be a part of the larger Madison Institutions Collection, specifically portions of the correspondence, the grade book, and the Cotzian and Cumins property/estate materials.

Provenance

The larger Madison Institution Collection is a merging of four previously held but unprocessed collections in the Center. Records are not clear on who donated and when these came to the Center. Most came in the 1970s or 1980s. One portion did come from the Madison College Alumni Office in 2013. As the DeGraw Collection is a subset of these larger collections we cannot say what the provenance of it is other than a portion came from the Alumni Office.

Use

All users of this collection are required to complete the "Application to Use Unpublished Records," and to observe the regulations specified in the "Patron Agreement" and "Researcher's Code of Conduct." All records in this collection are open and available for research. Citation for this collection:

Box __, Folder __, M. Bessie DeGraw Papers (collection 084), Center for Adventist Research, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI.

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Inventory

Correspondence

Letters [The business letters could easily be placed somewhere in the Madison Institutions Collection (Collection 167). However, someone placed them here.]

Box 1 Fld 1 Personal (1896-1955).

Box 1 Fld 2 Business (1917-1948).

Box 1 Fld 3 Business (1949-1964).

Fld 4 M. Bessie DeGraw with William C. White on issues relating to Madison College (1917-1937).

Graduate Program at George Peabody College for Teachers

Class Notes

[When DeGraw was studying for a degree at George Peabody College. Not all the notes are dated. The date comes from their relative location in the file when received.]

Box 1 Fld 5 Class Notes (1929).

Fld 6 Class Notes (1929).

Fld 7 Class Notes (1929).

Fld 8 Class Notes (1929).

Fld 9 Class Notes (1929).

Fld 10 Class Notes (1930).

Box 2 Fld 1 Class Notes (1930).

Fld 2 Class Notes (1930).

Fld 3 Class Notes (1930).

Fld 4 Class Notes (1930).

Fld 5 Class Notes (1931).

Fld 6 Class Notes (1931).

Fld 7 Class Notes (1931).

Box 3 Fld 1 Class Notes (1931).

Fld 2 Class Notes (1931).

Fld 3 Class Notes (1931).

Fld 4 Class Notes (1932).

Fld 5 Class Notes (1932).

Fld 6 Class Notes (1933).

Box 4 Fld 1 Class Notes (1933).

Fld 2 Class Notes (1933).

Fld 3 Class Notes (1933).

Class Projects and Writings

- Box 4 Fld 4 Research notes, 1931.
- Box 4 Fld 5 Written reports.
- Report on, *The Christ We Forget*.
 - Report on Papini's, *Life of Christ*.
 - How Jesus Made Use of Interruptions.
 - The Visiting Teacher Movement.
 - The Relationship Between Intelligence and Mechanical Aptitude.
 - A Guidance Program for Madison.
 - The Relation of the Psychopathic Child to the Public School.
 - The Pedagogy of Jesus in the Twilight of Today: A Review [title page only].
 - Evaluating the Work of a Graduate Professional School, by A. M. Meyer.
 - Effect of Age on Efficiency in Teaching [not by DeGraw].
- Box 4 Fld 6 Class Projects While at George Peabody College. 3 documents.
- Box 4 Fld 7 Class Projects While at George Peabody College. *Teacher Training News*, December 1931, January 1932, and February 1932. This appears to be a newsletter-like document put together by a class. DeGraw is listed as a contributor.
- Box 4 Fld 8 Class project to prepare several course outlines. Outlines for: Biology, Religion, Chemistry, and Administration).

Thesis

- Box 4 Fld 9 Thesis. *High School Department of Nashville Agricultural Normal Institute: A Survey*.

Writings [collected]

Articles

- Box 5 Fld 1 Articles by Others.

Poetry

- Box 5 Fld 2 Poetry by Others.

Documents

Box 5 Fld 3 Grade Book, Nashville Agriculture and Normal Institute, Oct 1914 to Mar 1917. Covers 14 different classes with several different teachers during these years.

Box 5 Fld 4 Notes

Comins Estate, 1918. See also Edward A. Sutherland Collection (Collection 084).

Colorado Educational Conference, 1923.

21st Annual Conference of Self-Supporting Institutions, October 14 to 17, 1926.

[23rd] Annual Conference of Self-Supporting Institutions, October 11 to 14, 1928.

Clippings from Magazines and Newspapers

Box 5 Fld 5 Part 1.
Fld 6 Part 2.

Other

Certificates

Box 5 Fld 7 Certificates.

State of Tennessee, Department of Education,
Permanent Professional High School Certificate, 1931

Certificate of Appreciation, Near East Foundation, 1955

Financial

Box 5 Fld 8 Bank and Financial Documents.

Josephine Gotzian's Property

Box 5 Fld 9 Mortgage and Deeds.

Fld 10 Tax Documents.