

Register of the
Susan and Herschel Ard
Letter Collection
Collection 350

Center for Adventist Research
James White Library
Andrews University
Berrien Springs, MI 49014 -1440
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Susan and Hershael Ard Letter Collection Collection 350

Biographical

Susan was born April 9, 1898 to Herman and Harriet Walen in Massachusetts. They soon moved to St. Helena, California. While there Herman and Harriet heard Edward Sutherland speak while recruiting workers for the Madison school he had only recently established. In 1908 the Walen family moved to Madison, Tennessee. After only three months of training in the Madison plan they were sent out to establish what became the second "unit" of branch school from Madison.

The Walen's along with the George Wallace family, were sent to the Fountain Head (now Highland), Tennessee area to look for a location for a new school. They found a 112 acre rundown farm. Later that same year, 1908 or 1909, they had a school, Chestnut Farm School operating with seven students, though five of them were from their own families. By the fourth year there were 56 students attending the school. In the first 50 years of the school nearly 1,000 students passed through Chestnut Hills.

The Walen's stayed deeply involved in the school. By 1910, Susan was helping her mother teach school. A few years later Herschel Ard came to help teach at the growing school. One thing led to another and Susan and Herschel were married on Susan's 17th birthday, in 1915. Besides the Walens, Herschel became a leading figure.

Susan and Herschel were founding members of the Chestnut Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1925. In the 1930s Susan graduated from Madison High School in 1933 and attended Madison College, graduating in 1937 with a BS degree. Susan had other invitations to go other places to teach, but she stayed at Chestnut Hills. Herschel died in 1980 and Susan in 1990.

Scope and Content

This collection consists entirely of letters to and from the Walens and the Ards. Many of the letters are to or from or between Herschel and Susan. As you can see from the inventory on the following pages the bulk of the letters are from the 1930s. They will provide an insight into the work of the Ard's as well as the work of managing a self-supporting school such as Chestnut Hills.

Arrangement

The letters are in chronological order.

Provenance

This group of letters originally came to the Center for Adventist Research as part of one of the groups of Madison Institution donations. See Madison Institutions, Collection 167, for more information. The Ard collection of letters was deemed of sufficient substance to make into a stand alone collection separate from the Madison Institution records. The Ard letters were actually something of a subgroup within the Madison collection. The Center did not need to pull individual letters from hither and yon within that larger collection to make this one; this group of letters were largely already together. In the Madison Institutions Collection there are additional letters between Sutherland and others at Madison with leaders of other Madison "units."

The Madison records came to the Center for Adventist Research in several installments spaced over nearly 40 years and from different donors. There is no record of which donation the Ard letters came in or when they arrived.

Use

All users of this collection are required to complete the "Application to Use Unpublished Records," and to observe the regulation 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____, Susan and Herschel Ard Letter Collection (collection 350), Center for Adventist Research, James White Library, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI.

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Letters of Susan and Herschel Ard

Box 1

- Fld 1 No Date
- Fld 2 1913 to 1921
- Fld 3 1922 to 1923
- Fld 4 1924
- Fld 5 1925
- Fld 6 1926 to 1928
- Fld 7 1929 January to March

Box 2

- Fld 1 1929 April to December
- Fld 2 1930
- Fld 3 1931 January to August
- Fld 4 1931 September to December
- Fld 5 1935 January to April
- Fld 6 1935 May to December

Box 3

- Fld 1 1936 January to March
- Fld 2 1936 April to August
- Fld 3 1936 September to December
- Fld 4 1937 January to June
- Fld 5 1937 July to December, 1938

Box 4

- Fld 1 1939, 1947
- Fld 3 1951
- Fld 4 1953, 1961, 1964, 1967

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