

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION RECORD

RG5890.AM: Delzell Family

Papers: 1880-1997

Peru, Nemaha County, Neb.: Educator/Dean

Size: 2.25 cu. ft.; 3 boxes

BACKGROUND NOTE

This collection consists of papers relating to the Delzell family, particularly William Newton Delzell of Peru, Nemaha County, Nebraska. William N. Delzell was born in 1868 in Carroll County, Indiana, and at age 14 moved to Antelope County, Nebraska, with his parents, Solomon and Jane Delzell. He attended the Nebraska State Normal School in Peru, and then returned to that same school as faculty in 1905, where he remained until his retirement in 1938, serving as Dean for his last 17 years. He married Dora Wilson in 1900, and they had four children together: Esther, Mark, James, and Donna Jane. Dora passed away in 1920. William remarried in 1928, to Mary Elinor Ogg. William passed away in 1940. Mary maintained close correspondence with her step-daughter Esther until her death in 1976.

The largest portion of the collection consists of correspondence, most prominently the courtship correspondence between William N. Delzell and Dora Wilson (1896-1900); letters from William to Esther, her husband Sam M. Brownell, and their children (circa 1927-1940); and letters from Mary to Esther (1928-1976). Another significant portion of the collection is related to William's 1908 trip to Europe, including correspondence, journals, photographs, postcards, and memorabilia. Much of the 1908 trip material was organized by Ruth Delzell Brownell Green, who prepared a booklet about the trip for attendees of the 1997 Delzell family reunion. In addition to correspondence, the Delzell Family papers include genealogy information, diaries, journals, articles and lectures written by William, articles about William, Nebraska State Normal School memorabilia, an account book or ledger, tax records, diplomas and certificates, and cemetery and estate documentation. The earliest materials date to the 1880s and the latest materials date to 1997. The bulk of materials are concentrated from 1896 to 1940, and to a lesser degree from 1940 to 1976.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is arranged in five series: 1) Correspondence; 2) William N. Delzell; 3) William N. Delzell Trip to Europe 1908; 4) Mary Elinor Ogg Delzell; and 5) Genealogy.

Photographs from the 1908 trip to Europe and a VHS cassette of the 1997 family reunion have been removed from the papers and transferred to the photo and audio-visual components.

Due to the inclusion of oversized items, Series 2 and 3 are both divided, with legal-sized items being placed in Box 3 and larger items being placed in an Oversized Folder. Details follow.

Series 1 contains the correspondence between William N. Delzell and Dora Wilson from the time of their first meeting in 1896 until their marriage in 1900; William Delzell's personal and professional correspondence from about 1882 until his death in 1940 (after 1927, letters from William Delzell to his daughter Esther Brownell, her husband Sam, and their children predominates); a small amount of Dora (Wilson) Delzell's personal correspondence from about 1900 until about 1920, mixed in with William's correspondence sorted by date; and letters of condolence received by Esther and Sam Brownell after William Delzell's death. Most of the

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correspondence is arranged by date, but portions are arranged by correspondent. This arrangement preserves the original order as maintained by the family.

Series 2 contains a variety of materials related to William N. Delzell, including six pocket-sized notebooks/diaries; one pocket-sized account book/ledger; tax receipts (1895-1900); diplomas, certificates, and other official documents; articles, lectures, notes, and poems written by William Delzell (manuscript, typescript, and published); biographies of William Delzell by others; Peru Nebraska State Normal School memorabilia; newspapers, clippings, and published articles about William Delzell; and a book of Nebraska poetry owned by William Delzell. Excluded are correspondence and the 1908 trip to Europe, which are covered in Series 1 and 3 respectively.

Series 3 contains information related to William N. Delzell's trip to Europe with a tour group of Nebraska educators in the summer of 1908, visiting England, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, and Greece. Included are William Delzell's letters to his wife and mother; his wife's letters to him; one letter from a colleague on the trip; William's four travel journals for Italy, Rome and Naples, Athens, and Naples and the ship back to New York; copies of William's photographs taken on the trip and organized by Ruth Green; Ruth Green's photocopies of all of the preceding material; Ruth Green's notes and resources; the master copy of Ruth Green's 1997 booklet about the 1908 trip; a bound copy of Ruth Green's 1997 booklet which was prepared for attendees of the Delzell family reunion; William Delzell's postcards (both written on and blank) collected on the trip and organized by Ruth Green; and an Italian leather notebook believed to be William Delzell's trip souvenir.

Series 4 contains material related to Mary Elinor Ogg Delzell (called "Granmary" by Esther Brownell and her children), including genealogy; funeral program; her correspondence with Esther Brownell from 1928 through her death in 1976; personal name cards; high school graduation program; invitation to her 1928 wedding to William Delzell; one piece of P.E.O. memorabilia; and information on the Delzell family lot from the Peru Cemetery Association.

Series 5 contains genealogy material related to the Wilson, Jarrett, Dinwiddie, Delzell, and Davis families; and information for attendees of the 1997 Delzell family reunion. See the last page of this inventory for a synopsis of Delzell family genealogical information.

DESCRIPTION

Series 1 - Correspondence

Box 1 Folder

1. W. N. Delzell letters to Dora Wilson, 1896-1897
2. W. N. Delzell letters to Dora Wilson, 1898
3. W. N. Delzell letters to Dora Wilson, 1899
4. Dora Wilson letters to W. N. Delzell, 1897-1898
5. Dora Wilson letters to W. N. Delzell, 1899-1900
6. Dora Wilson Delzell Correspondence
7. Delzell Correspondence, 1890s
8. Delzell Correspondence, 1900s
9. Delzell Correspondence, 1910s

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10. Delzell Correspondence, 1920-1927
11. Delzell Correspondence, 1928-1929
12. Delzell Correspondence, 1930-1931 (note: one photograph of unidentified infant moved to RG5890.PH 1-3)
13. Delzell Correspondence, 1932-1933
14. Delzell Correspondence, 1934
15. Delzell Correspondence, 1935
16. Delzell Correspondence, 1936
17. Delzell Correspondence, 1937
18. Delzell Correspondence, 1938
19. Delzell Correspondence, 1939
20. Delzell Correspondence, 1940s including letters of condolence for W. N. Delzell's death
21. Delzell Correspondence, Undated
22. Delzell Correspondence from Allen
23. Delzell Correspondence from Beck
24. Delzell Correspondence from Brandt
25. Delzell Correspondence from Chatelain
26. Delzell Correspondence from Clark
27. Delzell Correspondence from Dicken
28. Delzell Correspondence from Fairchild
29. Delzell Correspondence from Gard
30. Delzell Correspondence from Gockley
31. Delzell Correspondence from Good
32. Delzell Correspondence from Hacker
33. Delzell Correspondence from Hill
34. Delzell Correspondence from Hering
35. Delzell Correspondence from Kelly
36. Delzell Correspondence from Murch
37. Delzell Correspondence from Pinto
38. Delzell Correspondence from Place
39. Delzell Correspondence from Rohrs
40. Delzell Correspondence from Searson
41. Delzell Correspondence from Smith
42. Delzell Correspondence from Sprague
43. Delzell Correspondence from Wheeler
44. Delzell Correspondence, Unidentified

Series 2 - William N. Delzell

45. W. N. Delzell Notebook, 1880s
46. W. N. Delzell Notebook, 1890s
47. W. N. Delzell Notebook/Diary, 1901-1903
48. W. N. Delzell Notebook/Diary, 1904
49. "Baby Delzell's Diary," 1902, W. N. Delzell writing for Esther Delzell
50. W. N. Delzell Notebook, undated, includes 3 baby photographs
51. W. N. Delzell Notebook, undated, includes photograph of EDB? in grass skirt
52. W. N. Delzell Account Book/Ledger
53. W. N. Delzell Tax Receipts, 1895-1900
54. W. N. Delzell - Report Card, 1890

55. W. N. Delzell - Teacher's Contract, 1898
56. W. N. Delzell - Superintendent Certificate, 1911
57. W. N. Delzell -Peru State Normal Alumni Association, 1912
58. W. N. Delzell - Four-Minute Men, 1917-1918
59. W. N. Delzell - Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., 1919
60. W. N. Delzell - Orchard Cemetery Association, 1920
61. W. N. Delzell article "Americanism" (manuscript, complete)
62. W. N. Delzell articles "Cigarettes" (1885), "Ears," "I Say What I Think," and notes (manuscript, complete)
63. W. N. Delzell article "Life is Real, not Ideal" (manuscript, complete)
64. W. N. Delzell article "Mr. Pass-it-on" (typescript, complete)
65. W. N. Delzell article "Recitation Period" (manuscript, complete)
66. W. N. Delzell articles "Relations Between the Athlete and the School" and "The Servant in the House" (published versions, clippings possibly jumbled)
67. W. N. Delzell article "The Servant in the House" (published in *The Coach*, v. 2 no. 5, Jan. 1926)
68. W. N. Delzell Graduation Speech, Anti-War (typescript, incomplete)
69. W. N. Delzell on European Guides (typescript, complete?)
70. W. N. Delzell on Immigration (typescript, incomplete)
71. W. N. Delzell on Loyalty and Citizenship (anti-German sympathizers) (typescript, incomplete)
72. W. N. Delzell on Protective Tariff, Draft (manuscript)
73. W. N. Delzell on Protective Tariff, Fair Copy (manuscript, complete)
74. W. N. Delzell on "The Teaching Profession and Its Needs" (typescript, incomplete)
75. W. N. Delzell poem "Here I am alone . . ." (1930) (typescript, 2 variants)
76. W. N. Delzell poem "Poor Old House" (1934) (manuscript, complete)
77. W. N. Delzell "Thought Drops" used in *The Nebraska Teacher* (mixed manuscript and typescript, includes related correspondence)
78. W. N. Delzell Quotes and Excerpts apparently copied from other sources (mixed manuscript and typescript)
79. W. N. Delzell biographical information - Story of Dora Wilson and Will Delzell's first meeting in 1896 in William's words (typescript)
80. W. N. Delzell biography by J. W. Crabtree (1937 typescript and correspondence)
81. W. N. Delzell biography by J. W. Crabtree in *Nebraska Educational Journal* (v. 17 no. 9, Nov. 1937, p. 357)
82. W. N. Delzell biography by Esther and Sam Brownell in *A Who's Who of the Naughty Sixes: 40 Years After* (1946, p. 16-17)
83. *The Nebraska Teacher* (v. 24 no. 2, Oct. 1921) (featuring W. N. Delzell on cover, "Honor to Delzell," p. 50)
84. Nebraska State Normal School Catalogue 1889/1999
85. Nebraska State Normal School Commencement Week Programs 1895 and 1908
86. Nebraska State Normal School Souvenir Bulletin 1910
87. Nebraska Schoolmasters Club (1916, 68th Meeting, W. N. Delzell, president)
88. Peru Normal Alumni Lists with Notes and Corrections by W. N. Delzell
89. Directory of Chadron Alumni 1911-1937 Nebraska State Teachers College faculty listing for Ethel L. Delzell (W. N. Delzell's first cousin, once removed?)

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Box 2

Folder

1. Newspaper - *The Antelope*, 1936 (W. N. Delzell quoted p. 2)
2. Newspaper - *Beatrice Daily Sun*, 1918 (front page article on W. N. Delzell)
3. Newspaper - *Nebraska Advertiser*, 1895 (W. N. Delzell referenced on p. 3)
4. Newspaper - *The Peru Normalite*, 1920 (scattered references to W. N. Delzell and Esther Delzell)
5. Newspaper - *Peru Pedagogian*, 1930-1936 and undated clippings (various issues with articles about or referencing W. N. Delzell)
6. Newspaper - *The Peru Pointer*, 1938, 1940, 1953, and undated clippings (various issues with articles about W. N. Delzell)
7. Newspaper Clippings about W. N. Delzell including obituaries (sources unknown, dates unknown)
8. "Self-Pity" article torn from *The Saturday Evening Post* with handwritten notes indicating W. N. Delzell read to Dora Delzell shortly before her death (May 1920)
9. *Corn Tassels* by William Reed Dunroy (1899) (book of Nebraska poetry owned by W. N. Delzell)

Box 3 (legal-sized)

Folder

1. W. N. Delzell - Nebraska State Normal School Life Diploma 1897
2. Deed of Life Estate, Heirs of Solomon Delzell, deceased, to Jane Delzell, 1901
3. W. N. Delzell on honesty (manuscript, incomplete)
4. W. N. Delzell on loyalty, citizenship, and hard work (typescript, incomplete)
5. W. N. Delzell "Thought Drops" used in *The Nebraska Teacher* (mixed manuscript and typescript, legal-sized paper)

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- W. N. Delzell - Nebraska State Normal School Diploma, 1894
- W. N. Delzell National Educational Association Active Member for Life Certificate 1924
- Broadsheet-style obituary, "Death Brings End to Long Suffering for Beloved Dean of 'Old Peru'"

Series 3 - William N. Delzell Trip to Europe 1908

Box 2

Folder

10. W. N. Delzell Trip to Europe Letters and Memorabilia (organized by Ruth Delzell Brownell Green) includes advertisement (photocopy), correspondence (original, extensive), S. S. Cretic menu (original), and White Star Line booklet (original)
11. Letter to W. N. Delzell from J. Harold Williams written on return voyage, 1908, Aug. 20
12. W. N. Delzell Presentation About Visit to Athens and Rome (typescript, incomplete)
13. Correspondence from Dora Wilson Delzell (organized by Ruth Delzell Brownell Green)
14. W. N. Delzell Travel Notebook, Bureau of University Travel Syllabus: Italy
15. W. N. Delzell Travel Notebook, Rome and Naples

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16. W. N. Delzell Travel Notebook, Athens
17. W. N. Delzell Travel Notebook, Naples and Trip Back to New York
18. Italian Leather Notebook, W. N. Delzell Trip Souvenir?
19. W. N. Delzell's Photographs of Trip to Europe Arranged by Ruth Delzell Brownell Green with Inventory List (photocopies - originals moved to RG5890.PH 2-1 through RG5890.PH 2-86) and 1997 print of 1908 photograph of Dora, Mark, James, and Esther Delzell (original and negative moved to RG5890.PH 1-1A and RG5890.PH 1-1B)
20. Ruth Delzell Brownell Green's Photocopies of W. N. D.'s letters, Dora's letters, letter from friend, typescript of talk, and White Star Line booklet
21. Ruth Delzell Brownell Green's Photocopy of W. N. D.'s Travel Notebook, Bureau of University Travel Syllabus: Italy
22. Ruth Delzell Brownell Green's Photocopy of W. N. D.'s Travel Notebook, Rome and Naples
23. Ruth Delzell Brownell Green's Photocopy of W. N. D.'s Travel Notebook, Athens
24. Ruth Delzell Brownell Green's Photocopy of W. N. D.'s Travel Notebook, Naples and Trip Back to New York
25. Ruth Delzell Brownell Green's Photocopies of W. N. D.'s Travel Photographs, with R. D. B. G.'s Inventory List
26. W. N. Delzell Trip to Europe 1908 Booklet Notes by Ruth Delzell Brownell Green for 1997 Delzell Family Reunion (Photocopied Resources)
27. W. N. Delzell Trip to Europe 1908 Booklet by Ruth Delzell Brownell Green for 1997 Delzell Family Reunion (Master Copy)
28. W. N. Delzell Trip to Europe 1908 Booklet by Ruth Delzell Brownell Green for 1997 Delzell Family Reunion (Bound Copy)

Box 3 (legal-sized)

Folder

6. W. N. Delzell European Postcards (some with writing, some blank) arranged by Ruth Delzell Brownell Green, with Inventory List (folder 1 of 2)
7. W. N. Delzell European Postcards (some with writing, some blank) arranged by Ruth Delzell Brownell Green, with Inventory List (folder 2 of 2)

Series 4 - Mary Elinor Ogg Delzell

Box 2

Folder

29. Mary Ogg Delzell Personal History and Genealogy
30. Correspondence to Esther Delzell Brownell 1929-1937
31. Correspondence to Esther Delzell Brownell 1938-1940
32. Correspondence to Esther Delzell Brownell 1941-1953
33. Correspondence to Esther Delzell Brownell 1954-1966 (note: one photograph of W. N. Delzell moved to RG5890.PH 1-2)
34. Correspondence to Esther Delzell Brownell 1967-1976
35. Personal Name Cards
36. Indianola High School Graduation 1906
37. W. N. Delzell-Mary Elinor Ogg Wedding Invitation 1928
38. P. E. O. 40th Annual State Convention Booklet 1929

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39. Delzell Family Lot - Peru Cemetery Association

Series 5 - Genealogy

Box 2

Folder

40. Wilson, Jarrett, and Dinwiddie Genealogy (organized by Ruth Delzell Brownell Green)

41. Delzell and Davis Genealogy (organized by Ruth Delzell Brownell Green)

42. Delzell Family Reunion 1997, Attendee Booklet

Subject Headings:

Brownell, Esther Vivian (Delzell), 1902-1991

Brownell, Samuel Miller, 1900-1990

Deans (Education) -- Nebraska -- Peru

Delzell Family

Delzell, Dora Ann (Wilson), 1874-1920

Delzell, Mary Elinor (Ogg), 1888-1976

Delzell, William Newton, 1868-1940

Europe -- Description and travel

Green, Ruth Delzell (Brownell), 1944-

Peru (Neb.) -- History

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Genealogy:

William Newton Delzell b. Oct. 24, 1868 d. June 19, 1940 Son of Solomon Delzell and Jane Davis	married June 19, 1900 Dunbar, Nebr.	1 st , Dora Ann Wilson b. July 21, 1874 d. May 14, 1920 Daughter of Enoch Harper Wilson and Eunice Sidney Jarrett
	married August 28, 1928 Des Moines, Iowa	2 nd , Mary Elinor Ogg b. August 28, 1888 d. September 14, 1976 Daughter of William Martin Ogg and Mintie Jane Howard

Children of William and Dora Delzell

Esther Vivian Delzell b. May 20, 1902 d. 1991	married 1927	Samuel Miller Brownell b. 1900 d. 1990
Mark Wilson Delzell b. Oct. 21, 1904 d. 1994	married	Nettie Dennis
James Wilson Delzell b. Sept. 7, 1907 d. Nov. 1, 1976	married	Lucile Bernice Newcomer
Donna Jane Delzell b. March 30, 1911	married	Marvin Mahlen Fink

Children of Esther and Sam Brownell

Richard Miller Brownell b. Jan. 26, 1930	married	Elizabeth Darrow
Dorothy Wilson Brownell b. June 20, 1932	married	Bryce Templeton
Jane Davis Brownell b. June 15, 1937	married	Kenneth Cheek
Ruth Delzell Brownell b. March 10, 1944	married	Thomas Andrew Green

Other

James W. Crabtree was married to Donna Angeline (Wilson) Crabtree, sister of Dora (Wilson) Delzell.

More detailed genealogical information is available within the collection.