

McLean County Museum of History

Engle Family Papers Collection

Processed by
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	Two
COLLECTION DATES:	1908-1925
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History.
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	See also—Photographic Collection—People: Engle Gift of John Elterich, who found the items in a trunk in the attic of 421 E. Grove St., Bloomington, Illinois -where the family resided when these documents were created.

Brief History

Mary Elizabeth (“Beth”) Engle, Esther Annette Engle, and Ruth Louise Engle were three sisters who resided at 421 E. Grove Street, Bloomington, Illinois, during the early part of the 20th Century. Their parents, who were from New York, were Washington Frederick Engle (1859-1935) and Lillian L. (Worden) Engle (1860-1932). Mr. Engle had several careers according to public records: a “travel agent” (1893 Bloomington City Directory), a “traveling salesman” (1902 Bloomington City Directory), a “farm operator” (1910 Federal Census) and a “farm

supervisor” (1920 Federal Census). He also served as a Trustee for Illinois Wesleyan University. The 1910 census shows the Engles living at 421 E. Grove St. (Franklin, Lillian, Beth, Esther, Ruth, Cousin Franklin Engle and Sister-in-law Katherine Worden). The 1893 and 1902 Bloomington City Directories list the Engles at 822 E. Jefferson Street, Bloomington. Oldest sister of the family, Grace Lenore Engle (1885-1972) never resided at 421 E. Grove Street. She later married Will B. Rayburn (1885-1959) and moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan. In 1951, the Bloomington City Directory lists them in Bloomington at 814 N. Prairie.

Beth 1890-1990. Beth attended Illinois Wesleyan University, and Smith College, Geneva, New York, from which she graduated in 1912 with a B.A. In 1912, she married Benjamin Austin Danforth (1889-1956), a classmate at Illinois Wesleyan. According to the 1920 Census, Benjamin and Beth were living in Deer Creek, Illinois, with Benjamin’s father, James Danforth. They were living at 421 E. Grove per the 1930 and 1940 Census, and Beth was still living there in 1962. They had two daughters, Mary Elizabeth (1920-2012), and Elizabeth Ann (1916-1932).

Esther 1895-1978. Esther graduated from Bloomington High School in 1912. She was a freshman at Illinois Wesleyan University in 1913, but was at the University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois, in 1915-1916, and is listed as a senior (Class of 1917) in the 1918 University of Illinois yearbook *The Illio*. She later taught high school in Bloomington. The 1940 Bloomington City Directory lists her occupation as “Professor,” and the 1957 Bloomington City Directory lists her occupation as “Teacher at ISNU.” residing at 207 ½ S. McLean Street, Bloomington.

Ruth 1897- . Ruth graduated from Bloomington High School in 1915. She attended Illinois Wesleyan University, and also Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio. She later taught school in Bloomington.

Scope Note

The Engle Family Papers Collection consists of 2 boxes. It contains mostly school notebooks compiled by the sisters presumably at a college level. In most cases, it is unclear which educational institution was attended and where the notes were taken, but the related documents refer to Oberlin College, Smith College, University of Illinois, and Illinois Wesleyan University. All three sisters were enrolled at Illinois Wesleyan University. Also, all three sisters were members of Sigma Kappa Sorority. Most of the material comes from 1908 to 1925.

Box and Folder Inventory

Box 1

School Notebooks (Folders 1-4)

Folder 1: Beth

- 1.1.1 Notebook (Bound; "Normal Exercise No. 400"), "Sophomore English Lectures Con't from Book I, Book II, 1908", 1908.
- 1.1.2 Notebook (Bound; "Normal Note Book No. 600"), "Demonstration", undated.
- 1.1.3 Notebook (Hardbound), "Beth Engle, German, 5th Hour", 1911 (includes additional loose pages, "American Industrial Development").
- 1.1.4 Notebook (Hardbound; loose-leaf 2 ring binder; "I-P Student's Note Book No. 9108"), "Chapter VVVI [?] Bankruptcy & Convocation of States...", undated (includes two examination booklets from Smith College; plus notes "What the Middles Ages Starts out with...").
- 1.1.5 Notebook (Bound), "Beth Engle, American Industrial Development", 1911.
- 1.1.6 Notebook (Partially bound with string; Hard cover only), "Beth Engle, American, 2nd Hour", 1906, 1907, (includes several papers which were graded, entitled, "Colonial Literature", "7 Hopkinson Smith + James Lane Allen", "The Ancient Mariner", "A Quarrel with his Household", "Queens' Gardens" and "Rich Gifts wax poor when Giver proves unkind"; plus notes "Lab I Temperature Tests").
- 1.1.7 Notebook (Bound; Normal Note Book No. 600"), "Beth Engle, English", undated.
- 1.1.8 Document (Hardbound three-ring binder), "Beth Engle", undated, covers only.
- 1.1.9 Document (typewritten), "Final Examination, Education 10", 1 June 1911, 6 pages.
- 1.1.10 Document (printed), "Smith College, French I", January 1912, 1 page.

Folder 2: Esther

- 1.2.1 Book (paperbound), "University of Illinois Annual Register 1915-1916", University of Illinois Bulletin, Vol. XIII, No. 26, 28 February 1916 ("Esther A. Engle" written on cover).
- 1.2.2 Program (Bi-fold), "University of Illinois Symphony Concert Course Season 1916-1917", New York Symphony Orchestra, The Auditorium, 26 March.
- 1.2.3 Notebook (Bound; Normal Note Book No. 600), "History, Eng-Am, 1913, (includes drawing entitled, "Cubist Impression of Nothing").

- 1.2.4 Notebook (Bound; Normal Note Book No. 600), "European History", undated.
- 1.2.5 Notebook (Bound; Normal Note Book No. 600), "History", undated.
- 1.2.6 Notebook (Bound; Normal Note Book No. 600), "History Method", undated.
- 1.2.7 Notebook (Bound; Normal Note Book No. 600), "European History", undated.
- 1.2.8 Notebook (Bound; Normal Note Book No. 600), "English History", undated.
- 1.2.9 Notebook (Bound; Normal Note Book No. 600), "English", undated.
- 1.2.10 Document (typewritten), "Education 10", undated, 5 pages (appears to be a college course outline for a course at the University of Illinois).
- 1.2.11 Document (handwritten), "Education 10, Classroom Management, Outlining Chapter 1-2, 23 February 1917, 3 pages (Homework assignment which received a "B" grade).
- 1.2.12 Document (handwritten), "Letter of Application", 19 February 1917, 3 pages (Homework assignment which received a "B+" grade).
- 1.2.13 Notebook (hardbound), "History of Music", 1916 (Inside cover: "Education 10, Esther A. Engle, 110 E. John St., Champaign, Ill.>").
- 1.2.14 Document (handwritten loose pages), "Esther A. Engle, Amer His", undated, approx. 100 pages.
- 1.2.15 Document (handwritten loose pages), "Officers of the Roman Republic", undated, approx. 50 pages.
- 1.2.16 Document (3 ring binder tied with shoelace), "Esther Engle, English 3B, Miss Inman Teacher 3rd hour", undated, 10 pages plus 2 magazine cut-outs).
- 1.2.17 Document (Handwritten loose pages in box labeled "C.W. Klemm, Bloomington, Ill.), "Notes E.A.E. History of Music, Botany I, II, Chem...", 1916, approx. 500 pages (includes "Blue Book" exams for Botany I and Lab Sec C, plus some class "handouts").

Box 2

Folder 3: Ruth

- 2.3.1 Calling Card, "Miss Ruth Louis Engle", 2 cards, (on back of one, "Feather Stitched Border Price \$.82 Length 48 inches made by a hand-loom")
- 2.3.2 Notebook (hardbound), "Sewing II, Ruth Engle, 1916, (includes sewing samples pasted inside).
- 2.3.3 Booklet, "Bulletin of Oberlin College, New Series #126, The Conservatory of Music, The Course in Public School Music", 1917.

- 2.3.4 Booklet, "Oberlin College, Recent Changes in Regulations Governing Students in Oberlin College, Reasons for the Changes, President King", 1919, re: changes in policy for tobacco and dancing.
- 2.3.5 Notebook (hardbound; "Harmony Blank Book, No. 1, Heacocx Lessons in Harmony"), "Ruth Engle", 1919.
- 2.3.6 Exam Booklet, "Oberlin Conservancy of Music, Blue Book", 12 June 1919, Ruth Engle exam for Theory II.
- 2.3.7 Booklet, "Oberlin Conservancy of Music, Modulations of First Year Harmony", arranged by John E. Snyder, undated.
- 2.3.8 Notebook (Bound; Normal Note Book No. 600), "Merry Wives of Windsor", undated.
- 2.3.9 Notebook (Bound; Normal Note Book No. 600), "Child Study, Wesleyan", undated.
- 2.3.10 Notebook (Bound; cover missing), undated.
- 2.3.11 Loose Pages (notebook size), December 1909, 29 pages.
- 2.3.12 Notebook (Hard cover; three ring binder: "The Atlas Science Tablet For Laboratory Notes and Drawings", Beckley-Cardy Company, Chicago), 1919-1920, re: notes from Oberlin.
- 2.3.13 Notebook (Hard cover; three ring binder: "The Atlas Science Tablet For Laboratory Notes and Drawings", Beckley-Cardy Company, Chicago), 1919, re: notes from Oberlin Zoology class with instructor Budington.
- 2.3.14 Loose Pages (8.5 X 11 size), undated, 55 pages, re: handwritten notes from French Composition class, plus typed class information.
- 2.3.15 Maps (Printed; 8.5 X 11), "The Talisman Series of Historical Maps, Copyright 1901 by Atkinson & Mentzer, Chicago", 12 maps (Nos. 1, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 27), re: European historical maps annotated by Ruth Engle.
- 2.3.16 Notebook (hardbound 2-ring binder; "I-P Student Note Book, No. 9097"), undated, no contents, but "Physiology" written inside.
- 2.3.17 Notebook (hardbound, 3-hole; covers only; "Atlas Series Science Covers and Tablets, Beckley-Cardy Company, Chicago"), undated.
- 2.3.18 Loose Notebook Pages (8.5 X 11; three-hole punched), undated, 60 plus pages, re: handwritten notes on several topics: "Tigris Euphrates States", "Middle States, Phoenician", "Sparta Supremacy", "Epaminondas", "Theban Supremacy", "How the Anglo-Saxon Language became English", "Customs in time of Chaucer", "The Drama", "Julius Caesar", "King Lear", "Romeo and Juliet", "Twelfth Night", and "Satan".
- 2.3.19 Loose Notebook Pages (approx. 7" X 10"), 1911, 100 plus pages, re: Sewing.

2.3.20 Loose Notebook Pages (approx. 8.5" X 11"), 1912, 100 plus pages, re: American History.

Folder 4: Unidentified/Other Names

- 2.4.1 Notebook (handwritten; hardbound 2-ring binder; "Student's Note Book No. 9108, Irving-Pitt Manufacturing Co., Kansas City, Missouri"), undated, approx. 100 pages.
- 2.4.2 Notebook (handwritten; hardbound 2-ring binder; "National 'Simplex' Note Book, No. 3804, National Blank Book Co., New York City"), "Sophomore [sic] English, Term III Lectures", undated, approx. 200 pages.
- 2.4.3 Notebook (handwritten; hardbound 2-ring top binder; "University Covers, National Blank Book Co., Holyoke, Mass."), undated, approx. 200 pages, (Inside cover: "Gertrude Darling 13 Belmont").
- 2.4.4 Notebook (Bound; Normal Note Book No. 600), "Bible Study", undated.
- 2.4.5 Notebook (Bound; Normal Note Book No. 600), undated.
- 2.4.6 Notebook (Bound), "Problems", undated.
- 2.4.7 Notebook (Hardbound), "Naomi Kershaw, Medford, Oklahoma, Physiology Second Hour", 1904 (Note: 1916 Bloomington High School Yearbook, The Aegis, lists Naomi Kershaw as a 1907 graduate).
- 2.4.8 Notebook (Bound; Normal Note Book No. 600), "G. Edward Myers, American Literature", undated.
- 2.4.9 Loose Notebook Pages (loosely bound with string), 1918, 100 plus pages, re: cookbook, listing recipes from lab class.
- 2.4.10 Notebook (Hardbound two-ring binder; "The Glencoe Laboratory Note Book for Notes and Drawings in Biology, Physics and Chemistry", Atkinson & Mentzer, School Furnishers, Chicago), "Grace Engle 7th hr. Miss Manning", undated, binder only.

Other Documents (Folders 5-7)

Folder 5: Sigma Kappa Documents

- 2.5.1 Publication (paperbound; 2 copies), "Sigma Kappa Bulletin", Number 1, 1912, (Beth Engle mentioned on page 8 for receiving an "A" in the 1911 Examinations as a member of the Eta Chapter).
- 2.5.2 Publication (paperbound; 2 copies), "Sigma Kappa Bulletin", Number 2, February 1913.

- 2.5.3 Publication (paperbound), "Sigma Kappa Bulletin", Number 3, September 1913, (Esther Engle mentioned on page 20 for receiving a "99" in the 1913 Examinations as a Freshman member of the Eta Chapter)
- 2.5.4 Publication (Paper bound), "Sigma Kappa Triangle", Overseas Number, December 1919, Vol. XIV, No. 1, George Banta, Official Printer and Publisher, Menasha, Wisconsin, (Ruth Engle mentioned on page 88 as having returned to Oberlin; Esther Engle wrote a note on page 112-113 about the Bloomington Alumae Chapter, mentioning her sister Beth Engle Danforth).
- 2.5.5 Publication (Paper bound), "Sigma Kappa Triangle", Mothers' Number, December 1920, Vol. XV, No. 1, George Banta, Official Printer and Publisher, Menasha, Wisconsin, (Esther Engle mentioned on page 125 as a high school teacher; and on page 133 as being Triangle Editor of the Bloomington Alumae Chapter).
- 2.5.6 Publication (Paper bound), "Sigma Kappa Triangle", Tradition Number, March 1921, Vol. XV, No. 2, George Banta, Official Printer and Publisher, Menasha, Wisconsin (Esther Engle listed as a subscriber on page 189; and on page 276 as Triangle Editor and Secretary of the Bloomington Alumae Chapter).
- 2.5.7 Paper (typewritten), "Basis for Sigma Kappa Examinations 1914", 2 pages.

Folder 6: Background Information

- 2.6.1 Document (photocopy), Smith College Yearbook, 1912, page 38, re: photo of Mary Elizabeth Engle.
- 2.6.2 Document (photocopy), *The Wesleyana* (Illinois Wesleyan Yearbook), 1908, page 58, re: Elizabeth Engle listed as Class of 1911.
- 2.6.3 Document (photocopy), Smith College Bulletin, Alumnae Catalog 1875-1915, April 1916, Page 1203, re: Mary Elizabeth Engle listed in the Class of 1912.
- 2.6.4 Document (photocopy), *The Wesleyana* (Illinois Wesleyan University Yearbook), 1911, page 350, re: photo of Elizabeth Engle
- 2.6.5 Document (photocopy), Bloomington High School Yearbook, 1916, page 115, re: Esther Engle, Class of 1912, will graduate from Illinois Wesleyan in June.
- 2.6.6 Document (photocopy), *The Illio* (University of Illinois Yearbook), 1918, page 59, re: photo of Esther Engle, Class of 1917.
- 2.6.7 Document (photocopy), *The Illio* (University of Illinois Yearbook), 1918, page 59 re: Esther Annette Engle, Class of 1917.
- 2.6.8 Document (photocopy), Bloomington High School Yearbook, 1912, page 53, re: photo of Esther Engle.

- 2.6.9 Document (photocopy), Bloomington High School Yearbook, 1915, page 52, re: photo of Ruth Engle.
- 2.6.10 Document (photocopy), Bloomington High School Yearbook, 1915, page 65, re: Ruth Engle's "Address" to Latin Class.
- 2.6.11 Document (photocopy), *The Wesleyana* (Illinois Wesleyan University Yearbook), 1919, Page 41, re: photograph of Ruth Engle.
- 2.6.12 Document (photocopy), *The Pantagraph*, Bloomington, Illinois, 29 May 1925, page 13, re: advertisement for Williams Oil-O-Matic Heating Corporation listing Washington Engle as a new owner at 421 E. Grove Street, Bloomington, Illinois.
- 2.6.13 Document (photocopy), *The Pantagraph*, Bloomington, Illinois, 22 May 1955, page 23, re: Esther Engle new president of the dozen Club; meeting at home of Mrs. B. A. Danforth [formerly Elizabeth Engle] of 421 E. Grove Street, Bloomington, Illinois.
- 2.6.14 Document (photocopy), *The Wesleyana* (Illinois Wesleyan University Yearbook), 1925, page 16, re: Washington F. Engle, Trustee of the University.

Folder 7: Miscellaneous

- 2.7.1 Pamphlet (paperbound), Denoyer, L.P., "How To Use Desk and Wall Outline Maps", 1916, 32 pages, A. J. Nystrom & Co., Chicago.
- 2.7.2 Pamphlet (paperbound), No author, "The Sanford American History Maps, 1916, 24 pages, A. J. Nystrom & Co., Chicago (plus postcard insert to request a set (32) of Sanford American Maps with tripod and manual for two week examination).