Papers of

MARION DICKERMAN

1918 - 1975

Accession Numbers: 80-18

NOTICE TO RESEARCHERS: The Papers of Marion Dickerman originally were placed on loan by the Roosevelt/Vanderbilt National Historic Site, National Park Service, which purchased the Papers from Marion Dickerman. In June 2003, the original collection was returned to the National Park Service at its request. Prior to the return of the collection, the Library photocopied the bulk of the Papers. This Finding Aid covers those photocopied materials. Only files specifically related to the day-to-day activities of Todhunter School and one postcard scrapbook were omitted from the photocopies. A copy of the original box and folder listing of the complete collection is appended to this Finding Aid. Researchers wanting to review the original collection should contact the National Park Service at 229-2501.

Copyright: Marion Dickerman did not donate copyright in her unpublished materials to the United States Government. Unpublished writings of Franklin D. Roosevelt are in the public domain. Unpublished writings of Eleanor Roosevelt not otherwise located in the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers are subject to Mrs. Roosevelt’s literary estate.

Quantity: 2.4 linear feet (approximately 4,800 pages)

Restrictions: None

Related Materials: Additional materials relating to Marion Dickerman, Nancy Cook, and Eleanor Roosevelt may be found in the Papers of Eleanor Roosevelt and Franklin D. Roosevelt and in interviews conducted by the Eleanor Roosevelt Oral History Project. There is an interview with Marion Dickerman in the Oral History Project at Columbia University. See also INVINCIBLE SUMMER by Kenneth Davis, a portrait of Marion Dickerman based on her recollections.
MARION DICKERMAN

Biographical Sketch

Marion Dickerman was born in Westfield, New York, on April 11, 1890. She attended Wellesley in 1907-1909 and received her A.B. in 1911 at Syracuse University. There she met Nancy Cook who was to become her lifelong companion. She taught public school from 1912-1918, the last four years of which she headed the Fulton High School History Department.

Along with Nancy Cook she left for London in mid-1918 to serve on the staff of the Endell Street Hospital. Upon her return to the United States in 1919 she ran unsuccessfully as Democratic candidate for the New York State Assembly from Oswego County against the Speaker of the Assembly. She served in 1919-1920 as Executive Secretary for the Women's Joint Legislative Conference and was Dean of the New Jersey State Normal School at Trenton, 1920-1921.

In 1922 Marion Dickerman and Nancy Cook became acquainted with Eleanor Roosevelt. Their service on the Women's Division of the Democratic Committee made the three closer friends and Dickerman and Cook became frequent visitors to the Roosevelt home in Hyde Park. On one visit Franklin Roosevelt offered the three women a lifetime lease on some of his land near Val-Kill Creek for the purpose of building a cottage. A small handicraft factory was also built which eventually became known as Val-Kill Industries. In 1929 Marion Dickerman visited Europe with Eleanor Roosevelt.

From 1922 to 1927 Miss Dickerman taught at the fashionable Todhunter School for girls in New York City. In 1927 she joined with Eleanor Roosevelt and Nancy Cook to purchase the school. Marion Dickerman was principal of the school from 1927 to 1937; Eleanor Roosevelt spent time at the school as a teacher. When the Todhunter School affiliated with the Dalton School Miss Dickerman remained on in an administrative capacity until 1942.

Miss Dickerman had an abiding interest and involvement in labor matters. In 1938 she was appointed to a Presidential commission to study industrial relations in Great Britain and Sweden. In 1938-1939 she served on the Industry Committee of the Department of Labor; from 1942-1945 she was a member of the National Labor Relations Board. In 1942 she became Director of Public Education of the American Arbitration Committee. She
also co-edited a book on *Who's Who in Labor*. In 1945 she taught a course in Labor-Management and the War Effort at Manhattan College.

Miss Dickerman held a number of honorary positions. She was a member of the Board and Chairman of Civic Education at the Greenwich Settlement House, President of the New York State Branch of the American Association of University Women and a member of a committee to evaluate secondary schools and colleges in the middle states.

Throughout these years she was prominently involved in women's activities in the Democratic party and played a part in election campaigns for New York State governor and for president. She was well known as an educator and a sought after public speaker.

From 1945 to 1962 Miss Dickerman was educational director of the Marine Museum at Mystic Connecticut.
## PAPERS OF MARION DICKERMAN, 1918-1975 and undated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>H Correspondence Halsted, Anna Roosevelt Hammer, Armand Hull, Cordell</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Invitations and Programs</td>
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<td>Roosevelt, Eleanor UN Memorial</td>
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| 5         | S Correspondence  
Smith, Alfred  
Social and Labor Issues – Pamphlets 1916-1924  
Speeches 1919-1939  
Speeches 1940-1942  
Speeches 1943-1944  
Swope, Gerard |
| T         | Correspondence  
Taylor, Myron  
Teaching – Manhattan College 1945  
Thompson, Malvina  
Todhunter School – Accreditation, By-Laws, Incorporation  
Todhunter School – Car Theft Materials 1928-1931  
Truman, Harry  
Tully, Grace G. |
| V         | Correspondence  
Val-Kill Articles  
Val-Kill Financial Statements and Lease  
Val-Kill Founding and Dissolution 1924-1947  
Val-Kill Furniture Prices  
Vanderbilt Mansion  
Van Loon, Hendrick  
Vireo |
| W         | Correspondence  
Welles, Sumner  
Who’s Who in Labor 1944-1946  
Who’s Who in Labor 1946-1947 |
|           | Scrapbook—1919 Campaign “Women in Politics” (3 folders)  
Scrapbook—Val-Kill Industries Furniture (2 folders) |
APPENDIX
FINDING AID TO ORIGINAL COLLECTION RETURNED TO NPS JUNE 2003
MARION DICKERMAN PAPERS

Container | Contents
--- | ---
1 | Astor, Nancy (Lady) and Waldorf
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   | Campaign Materials 1919
   | *Campaign 1919 "Women in Politics" (Scrapbook)

2 | Campobello Visit 1933
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   | Endell Street Hospital - Correspondence 1919-1921
   | Endell Street Hospital - Interview
   | **Endell Street Hospital (photo Album)

3 | *European Tour (Postcard Album)
   | English, Harold
   | Farley, James A.
   | Fosdick, Harry Emerson
   | Franklin D. Roosevelt Library
   | G Correspondence

*Scrapbooks are filed at the end of the collection.
**Photo Albums are filed in the audiovisual department.
<table>
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</thead>
</table>
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Roosevelt, Franklin D. Satires  
Roosevelt, Franklin D. Southern Trip 1934  
Roosevelt, Franklin D. Speeches 1934-1940  
Roosevelt, Sara Delano |
| 6 | S Correspondence  
Smith, Alfred  
Social and Labor Issues - Pamphlets  
Speeches 1919-1939  
Speeches 1940-1942  
Speeches 1943-1944  
Swope, Gerard |
| 7 | Todhunter School Accreditation, ByLaws, Incorporation (bound)  
Todhunter School Brochures and Stationary  
Todhunter School Car Theft Materials 1928-1931  
Todhunter School History and Philosophy  
Todhunter School Photos (3 Folders) |
| 8 | Todhunter School Primary School Albums and Materials (bound)  
Todhunter School Publications |
| 9 | Todhunter School Trip with Eleanor Roosevelt to TVA 1937  
Todhunter School 1927-1928  
Todhunter School 1928-1929  
Todhunter School 1929-1930  
Todhunter School 1930-1931  
Todhunter School 1931-1932  
Todhunter School 1932-1933  
Todhunter School 1933-1934 |
| 10 | Todhunter School 1934-1935  
Todhunter School 1935-1936  
Todhunter School 1936-1937  
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<table>
<thead>
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</tr>
</thead>
</table>
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