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Mendenhall, Edgar N. (1872-1961), Papers, 1894-1951

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#50 Mendenhall, Edgar N. (1872-1961), Papers, 1894-1951
7 folders

INTRODUCTION

The publications, books, poems, diaries, and professional documents of Edgar N. Mendenhall are found in this collection. Also includes family documents regarding the improvements of corn planters and personal documents that share information about Mendenhall or his family.

DONOR INFORMATION

The Edgar N. Mendenhall Papers were donated to the Leonard H. Axe Library at Pittsburg State University by an unknown donor.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Edgar Nelson Mendenhall was a longtime faculty member at Kansas State Teachers College. According to his bio in the 1923 *Kanza* his favorite saying was "Better country schools for Kansas." Mendenhall was an advocate of the same level of education for students in rural schools as was available in urban schools. Mendenhall worked at rural schools in Indiana from 1890-1896 serving as teacher. In Greensburg, Indiana he worked as teacher and principal from 1896-1903. He also served as the superintendent of schools in Decatur County, Indiana from 1903-1911. Mendenhall served again in the capacity of superintendent of schools, this time for Goshen County, Indiana from 1911-1916.

Mendenhall received his Ph. b (Bachelors in Philosophy) in 1917 from the University of Chicago. He earned his a.m. (Masters of Arts) from Columbia University, New York City, New York in 1928.

In 1917 Mr. Mendenhall came to Pittsburg to teach at the Kansas State Teachers College where he served double duty as professor and the head of the Department of Rural Education. December 1918 Mendenhall served on the editorial staff of *Techne*, a professional journal maintained by the Kansas State Teachers College. Mendenhall stayed with the publication until its last printing in 1937, by which time he was the chairman of the journal.

Mendenhall taught at the Kansas State Teachers College until his retirement in 1941. He was a published author; his best known work was *The City School Board Member and His Task* (1929). He also wrote *A Rural School Board Measuring Stick* (1925), both works were published in house at the college.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The materials in the Edgar N. Mendenhall Papers range in date from 1870 to 1952. Materials are related to his professional career while at the Kansas State Teachers College, now Pittsburg State University. Also included are some of his personal effects, and the effects of family members. These papers are arranged in four series: **Biography, Professional, Family and Personal.**

The **Biography Series** includes an undated professional summary with an unknown author about Edgar N. Mendenhall.

The **Professional Series** dates from 1894 to 1926. This series is arranged chronologically. In this series it contains a copy of *The Clarion*, a history of Franklin College from inception to 1894. Also contains two of his poems dedicated to the Kansas State Teachers College, "How Big Is Your Task" and "O Alma Mater, Beacon Bright."

The **Family Series** dates from 1870 to 1923. This section contains patents issued to Noah Mendenhall, father of Edgar Mendenhall. These patents are relevant to corn planters and the improvement of their design. Also contained in this section is a copy of *The Triangle of Lambda Phi Delta* which includes numerous pictures of the membership of the sorority and an alumni directory complete with addresses. Printed in 1923 it contains extensive lists of activities and photos. A participant, Ethelwyn Mendenhall, Edgar's daughter, was a member of this sorority. No other information about Edgar Mendenhall's family was located in this collection.

The **Personal Series** spans from various time periods in his life. All dates on the documents in this section are unknown. This series contains a copy of the Sheboygan Chair Company catalogue from 1885. Inside of this book several pages are covered with random assortments of newspaper clippings. Also includes a teachers' guide, a post card and a poem entitled "Education" by Arthur Guiterman. Mendenhall's *1951 Daily Desk Diary* is a running commentary about his daily affairs, and being frugal he also used it in 1952, writing with a red pencil and correcting the day.

FOLDER LIST

- f. 1 Biographical data
- f. 2 Professional Series: *The Clarion* June 1894 first edition
- f. 3 Professional Series: two published poems by Edgar Mendenhall
- f. 4 Professional Series: Letter from Arthur W. Bourlard
- f. 5 Family Series: Patents issued to Noah Mendenhall, *The Triangle of Lambda Phi Delta*, June 1923
- f. 6 Phoenix Chair Company (used as a scrap book)
- f. 7 1951 Desk Diary, *Teachers Guide for changing Civilizations in the Modern World*, personal postcard, Arthur Guiterman poem "Education"

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