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### Mahan, Ernest (1898 – 1985), Collection, 1919-1972

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#51 Mahan, Ernest (1898 – 1985), Collection, 1919-1972  
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## INTRODUCTION

A collection of the professional and personal papers of a historian and educator from Indiana who taught at the elementary, secondary, and college levels before his retirement from the Kansas State Teacher College (now Pittsburg State University) in Pittsburg, Kansas. The collection is arranged in six series: **Biographical; Correspondence; Kansas State Teachers College; Writings; Miscellaneous;** and **Family**. An extensive collection of Mahan's research and writings on the history of the Mormon Church is held by the Utah State University Library.

## DONOR INFORMATION

The donor and date of the donation is unknown.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Ernest Mahan was born July 25, 1898, in West Baden Springs, Indiana, to Andrew and Rena Mahan. On April 22, 1923 Mahan married Maurine Mendenhall at her parents' home in Yorktown, Indiana. Thereafter, Mahan attended the University of Indiana and received a bachelor's degree and master's degree. At the University of Wisconsin in 1930, Mahan earned a doctorate degree in United States history.

From 1917 to 1920 Mahan taught at the elementary school in West Baden Springs, Indiana. He served as principal of the Senior High School in Galveston, Indiana, in 1920 and 1921, and one year each in the same position at Mount Summit, Indiana, and Williamsburg, Indiana. From 1924 to 1928 Mahan was principal of the Senior High School in Centerville, Indiana. After teaching one summer session in the State Teachers College at Terre Haute, Indiana, in 1930, he was appointed as assistant professor of Social Sciences at the Kansas State Teachers College in Pittsburg.

At Pittsburg Mahan taught courses on the French Revolution, England in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Tudor and Stuart periods in England, and comparative politics. He achieved the rank of full professor and served as Head of the Social Sciences Department from 1939 to 1945 and Dean of Instruction from 1945 to 1959.

During Mahan's life he was a member and elder of the Pittsburg First Presbyterian Church. His professional memberships included the Kiwanis Club, Phi Alpha Theta fraternity, the Kansas State Historical Society, the National Education Association, the American Association of School Administrators, the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, the Kansas History Teachers Association, the Kansas Educators Club, the American Association of University Professors, and the American Historical Association. Dr. Ernest Mahan died on September 14, 1985 in Pittsburg, Kansas.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection is organized into six series: **Biographical; Correspondence; Kansas State Teachers College; Writings; Miscellaneous;** and **Family**. The **Biographical Series** contains copies of Mahan's obituary, several sketches and professional resumes, an announcement of his retirement, and memorial service cards for both Ernest Mahan and his wife, Maurine M. Mahan.

The **Correspondence Series** begins with undated letters, memos and notes from Kansas State Teachers College, history instructor Dr. Mary Elizabeth Cochran, and miscellaneous personal correspondence and cards. The remainder of the correspondence dates from 1919 to 1972 and is arranged in chronological order. These letters pertain to Mahan's experience as a student at Indiana University and the University of Wisconsin; his teaching career before arriving in Pittsburg, notes and letters pertaining to various topics and committees at Pittsburg, plus personal and family letters. The **Kansas State Teachers College Series** includes programs and announcements; teaching notes; scripts for radio presentations by Mahan during the early 1940s; and statistical reports on grade distribution in the 1930s at the colleges in Pittsburg and Emporia, Kansas. In the **Writings Series** are copies of Mahan's published articles and his notes for his book on the McNally Corporation of Pittsburg, Kansas. Also included in this series is a checklist of articles Mahan wrote for the Kansas State Teachers College student newspaper, The Collegio. The **Miscellaneous Series** contains photographs of Mahan, several diplomas and certificates, and legal and financial records. The **Family Series** contains items relating to Mrs. Maurine Mahan and to Ernest Mahan's sister, Bertha. Included are Mrs. Mahan's school records, information about her membership in the PEO, and correspondence. The information about Bertha Mahan includes a photograph, an obituary, and copies of her numerous teaching contracts.

## FOLDER LIST

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- f. 3 Correspondence with Mary Elizabeth Cochran, undated
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