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#80 Stephens, Sara (1897-1991), Papers, 1901-1988
41 folders

INTRODUCTION

The papers of Sara Stephens, a teacher and long-time resident of Pittsburg, Kansas. The papers include personal and travel diaries, travel brochures, photographs, high school and college papers, clippings, reunion programs, and other papers relating to her profession and life.

DONOR INFORMATION

Unknown

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Sara Stephens was born on December 29, 1897. Her parents, John Hughes and Martha Gay Stephens, moved their small family to Girard in 1898, and then to Pittsburg in 1906. Sara went to Pittsburg Public Schools until she graduated from Pittsburg High School in 1915. She then graduated from Pittsburg State University, then known as State Manual Training Normal School, in 1919 with a lifetime teaching certificate. She taught at Moran High School from 1919-1921, at Frontenac High School from 1921-1929, at Girard High School from 1931-1932, and then at Pittsburg High School from 1932-1963 when she retired. Stephens got her master's degree from Kansas State Teacher's College (now Pittsburg State University), and was a part of the first class to graduate with a master's degree.

Stephens traveled all over the United States, as well as local camping areas, for vacations with friends and family.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The materials in the Sara Stephens Papers are organized into seven series: **Diaries**, **Photographs**, **Academic**, **Teaching**, **Reunions**, **Miscellaneous**, and **Photo/Scrap Book**.

The **Diaries** series contains personal and travel diaries as well as corresponding travel brochures that date from 1912 to 1988.

The **Photographs** series includes one photo of Sara Stephens as a small child and photos of a family vacation.

The **Academic** series contains two folders. Included in the high school folder are grade cards from 1906-1911; a grade card from 1912-1915; graduation congratulatory notes and letters from family in 1915, and calling cards. In the college folder are graduation invitations; school programs; congratulatory notes; and clippings about graduation, all from 1919. See also Photo-Scrap Book for more items that relate to this series.

The **Teaching** series consists of pictures, postcards, and personal correspondence from Joe Forsyth during the time that Stephens taught at Moran and Frontenac High Schools. The photographs are undated and dated from 1919-1925.

The **Reunion** series has programs from class reunions held in 1965, 1968, 1970, and 1972. Also included are lists of living and deceased classmates with addresses.

The **Miscellaneous** series includes a prayer card, a note from Stephens' doctor dated 1972, and a 1976 clipping about Pittsburg's centennial and Martha Gay Stephens' 100th birthday.

The **Scrap/Photo Book** series contains a photo book with miscellaneous high school, college, and teaching photos, plus notes, clippings, and programs.

Folder List**Diaries Series**

- f. 1 personal diary, 1933-1937
- f. 2 personal diary, 1939-1943
- f. 3 personal diary, 1938 and 1939-1943
- f. 4 personal diary, 1944-1948
- f. 5 personal diary, 1949-1953
- f. 6 personal diary, 1954-1958
- f. 7 personal diary, 1959-1963
- f. 8 personal diary, 1964-1968
- f. 9 personal diary, 1969-1973
- f. 10 personal diary, 1974-1978
- f. 11 personal diary, 1979-1980
- f. 12 personal diary, 1981
- f. 13 personal diary, 1982
- f. 14 personal diary, 1982
- f. 15 personal diary, 1984
- f. 16 personal diary, 1984
- f. 17 personal diary, 1985
- f. 18 personal diary, 1987-1988
- f. 19 travel diary, July 21-Aug. 4, 1912
- f. 20 travel diary, July 18-Aug. 1, 1915
- f. 21 travel diary, 1914
- f. 22 travel diary, July 1-Aug. 17, 1931
- f. 23 travel diary, July 11-Aug. 4, 1932
- f. 24 travel diary, Dec. 26, 1935-Jan. 5, 1936
- f. 25 travel diary, July 11-Aug. 19, 1938
- f. 26 travel brochures, 1938
- f. 27 travel brochures, 1939
- f. 28 travel diary, Sept. 1- Aug. 25, 1939
- f. 29 travel brochures, 1939 and 1941
- f. 30 travel diary, Aug. 20-30, 1946
- f. 31 travel brochures, 1946
- f. 32 travel diary, Oct. 9-Oct. 22, 1963
- f. 33 travel brochures, 1963

Photograph Series

- f. 34 Sara Stephens as a small child, ca. 1901
- f. 35 Vacation photographs from 1914-1916

Academic Series

- f. 36 High School-grade cards from 1906-1911, grade card from 1912-1915, speech for student council president, workbook, card to parents, miscellaneous congratulatory cards and letters for graduation, and calling cards.
- f. 37 College-graduation invitation for Stephens' class, rules for lifetime membership of the Alumni Association, song called "June: Till We Meet Again," Senior Breakfast invitation and program (May 17, 1919), invitation to Kanza gathering in Joplin, Baccalaureate Program, Class Day and Graduation Exercises Program, Alumni Banquet (May 29, 1919), Commencement Program, (May 29, 1919), four clippings regarding graduation, and one clipping about the Stilwell Hotel in Pittsburgh.

Teaching Series

- f. 38 Clipping about achievement tests given by Stephens, letters from Joe Forsyth dated 1970 and 1972, miscellaneous photographs from Moran and Frontenac High Schools, including spelling bee winners and a Frontenac High School fire.

Reunion Series

- f. 39 Five lists of classmates, 50th Reunion Program (1965), 1968 Reunion Program with clipping, 1970 Reunion Program with clipping, 1972 Reunion Program.

Miscellaneous Series

- f. 40 1976 clipping re: 100 year birthday for Stephens' mother, Martha Gay Stephens; clipping about Pittsburgh centennial, note from Stephens' doctor dated 1972, and a prayer card.

Photo/Scrap Book Series

- f. 41 Miscellaneous photographs, programs, and notes from high school, college, and teaching career.

INDEX LIST

Diaries, personal	f. 1-18
Diaries, travel	f. 19-33
Forsyth, Joe	f. 38
Frontenac High School (Washington School)	f. 38, 41
McCray, Walter	f. 37
Mitchell, Hattie Moore	f. 37
Moran High School	f. 38, 41

INDEX LIST continued

Pittsburg (Kansas) Centennial	f. 40
Pittsburg High School	f. 36, 39, 41
State Manual Training Normal School, Pittsburg, Kansas	f. 37, 39, 41
Stephens, Sara	f. 1-41
Stephens, Martha Gay	f. 40