Sperry-Galligar Collection (1907-1995; 1904-1975); circa 1865 – 2012

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INTRODUCTION
Theodore Sperry and Gladys Galligar were two respected research professors who taught several branches of biology, and were specialized in ecology and plant physiology, respectively. Outside of their teaching careers, both of them were involved with conservation, bird banding and studying native flora and animals.

This collection contains correspondences, biographical materials, clippings, materials from organizations, academic materials, research materials, publications by and not by Sperry and Galligar, travel materials, Paradocs materials, Sperry’s military materials, financial and antique records, photographs and slides, genealogy materials and miscellaneous materials.

DONOR INFORMATION
The materials in this collection were donated and gathered by many people. Sperry donated several of Galligar’s materials after her death in 1977. In 1981, Sperry donated Galligar’s poetry and personal books. Sperry’s materials were donated periodically by the Sperry Trustees after his death in 1995. Jane Delcarson, a daughter of Dorothy Hodgeman, donated a few materials concerning the genealogy of the Sperry family in the late 1990’s.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
Gladys C. Galligar was born on June 2, 1904 in Wayne County, Illinois. She graduated from James Millikin University with a degree in biology in 1931 and then earned her master’s in botany at the University of Illinois, Urbana in 1932. She earned her Ph. D. in plant physiology in 1934. Galligar completed her post-doctorate work and some ecological research at Columbia and the University of Wisconsin.

Theodore M. Sperry was born on February 20, 1907 in Toronto Canada. His family moved to Indiana shortly after. Sperry graduated from Butler University in with a double major in botany and chemistry in 1929. He earned his master’s in plant physiology in 1931 and his Ph. D. in plant ecology in 1933, at the University of Illinois.

Galligar taught at Millikin University for 13 years, where she rose from associate professor to acting head of the biology department. In 1948, she left Millikin to join her husband at Kansas State Teachers College in Pittsburg, Kansas. She taught here until 1952.

Sperry worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1935 and in 1936 went to University of Wisconsin to turn a farm field back in a prairie. This would become the Curtis Prairie, the world’s first restored prairie. Sperry was drafted in 1941 to track weather pattern in Europe. After he returned from the war, Sperry took up a job at K.S.T.C as an ecologist professor and he also took over the Herbarium during this time, where he turned the 300 specimens into 50,000. He took a sabbatical from 1951 to 1952, to work as a consultant for the Marshall Plan in the Belgian Congo (known now as the Democratic Republic of the Congo).

Galligar and Sperry met in school and were married on June 16, 1935. Due her own opinion and her professional position, Galligar kept her last name. To do this, she had to fight many on local, state, and federal levels. Eventually, the opposition disappeared. They worked on several projects together, including studying the native animals and flora, for Pittsburg and several southwestern states, and a check list of birds native to the Pittsburg area. Sperry and Galligar were involved in several academic, professional and social organizations during their lives.
Sperry was an avid bird bander for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Sperry was a member of the local Kiwanis and they both attended the Presbyterian Church in Pittsburg.

Galligar passed away on April 19, 1975 in her home. She was 71 and her death was not expected. Two years after her passing, Sperry remarried to Dorothy Hodgman on August 17, 1977. Sperry passed away on March 29, 1995 at Sunset Manor Nursing Center in Frontenac. He was 88 and had been in poor health for the prior two months.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The materials in the Sperry-Galligar Collection are incomplete, but they give a very good and informative picture of their professional and personal lives. The materials are arranged into 16 series, with a Map Folder and an Oversized Box. The 16 series are: **Correspondences, Biographical, Organizations, Academic, Research, Publications by Sperry-Galligar, Travel, Paradocs, Military, Financial Records, Artifacts/Antiques, Photographs/Slides, Midwest Quarterly Review, Genealogy, Publication Not by Sperry-Galligar and Miscellaneous.** The Correspondence and Biographical series give the most complete picture of Galligar and Sperry’s personal lives. The Academic, Publications by Sperry-Galligar and Research series have the most information on both Sperry and Galligar’s academic and professional work.

Many materials in this collection consist of acidic newspaper clippings and several of these have been photocopied for preservation purposes. Others have been bound to anti-acidic paper, for preservation purposes.

The **Correspondence** series is comprised of personal and professional letter. A majority of the letter are to or from Sperry and Galligar, with a majority of these being to each other. The remaining correspondences are to and from their respective families and friends. The letters are best used for biographical information. This series is chronologically arranged.

The **Biographical** series is separated into two subseries, Galligar and Sperry. These subseries contain biographical data sheets, articles and clippings, certificates and her diaries and personal notes. There are clippings at the end of the series that cover both of their lives. This series is arranged by importance of document.

The **Organizations** series is separated into three subseries: Galligar, Sperry and Save the Tallgrass Prairie. The subseries for Galligar and Sperry consist of programs, correspondences, certificates and related materials for the organizations that they were a part of. Their organizations are social, academic, and professional. The Save the Tallgrass Prairie subseries consist of correspondences, newsletters and publications by the organization, and other related materials. Sperry was a member of Save the Tallgrass Prairie, while Galligar was not. This series is arranged chronologically.

The **Academic** series is divided into two subseries, Sperry and Galligar. Both of these subseries contain lecture notes, tests, essays and thesis papers. Then they have materials for classes they taught, grade cards and transcripts, certificates, diplomas and commencement programs. They also contain yearbooks, or annuals, and memorabilia from their high schools and undergraduates. This series is arranged chronological and by the importance of the document.

The **Research** series is arranged by importance of the document. The series is separated into eight subseries:

- The Bird series consists of Sperry’s Bird banding materials and notes, which he used to collect annual bird censuses and avian checklists. There are materials from the Wildlife and Fish Services to record and send the information back.
There are notebooks of birds that Sperry has observed in different states, from 1922 to when he passed. There are also materials over the birds he identified at the University of Wisconsin Arboretum.

- The Paradocs series contains lists of the flora, animals and birds on the property. There are research papers that students wrote over the different areas of Paradocs. There are publications used to help the creation of Paradocs and maps of the property.
- The University of Wisconsin Arboretum and Curtis Prairie series includes notes and papers written over the beginning and continuing development of the Curtis Prairie. There are study results for the Prairie and publications by the University, and maps showing the growth of the Prairie.
- The Congo series contains the publication of the results Sperry and his team gathered for the Belgium government. There are correspondences between the Belgium government and Sperry about the expedition, and lists of organisms found on the trip.
- The Biota series includes notes and lists of the biota that Sperry and Galligar have collected around the country, England, and Africa.
- The Herbarium series consists of a list of the items in the collection and a list of the items that have been shipped out to other herbariums.
- The United States Geological Survey series includes maps from several states around the country, mainly the Midwest and South.
- The Miscellaneous series contains articles, maps, pamphlets, federal regulations and other materials.

The **Publications and Presentations** series is divided into two subseries, Galligar and Sperry. The series consists of research papers, abstracts of theses and papers, journals and publications from professional organizations, programs, notes, self-published volumes, clippings, and correspondences. This series is arranged chronologically.

The **Travel** series is made up of maps of states and highways, information pamphlets of historical sites and states, travel information, information books and postcards. It also has a record of all the traveling that Sperry, Galligar and Hodgeman did, along with several travel journals. The overall series is arranged chronologically. The individual folders are arranged chronologically or alphabetically.

The **Paradocs** series includes a list of who visited Paradocs, designs and contracts for building Paradocs and the Lyrose House, and the contract for the Real Estate of Paradocs. This series is arranged thematically.

The **Military** series consist of data books, training materials, weather maps and travel materials from England. This series is arranged thematically.

The **Financial and Household Records** series is comprised of Sperry’s early financial records, check stubs, receipts, cancelled checks with statements, used and safe deposit checks. Information on nursing homes and Alzheimer’s disease is also there. There are correspondences, records of daily expenses, membership cards and personal information for Galligar and Sperry. There are also miscellaneous items and maps of the U.K and west Europe. This series is arranged chronologically and importance of the document.

The **Artifacts/Antiques** series consists of postage stamps from all around the world, correspondences between Galligar and Antique dealers, and receipts. There are also lists of pottery patterns, and lists of merchandise, an inventory of antiques in Paradocs and photographs
of Venus patterned dishes. This series is best used to view one of Sperry and Galligar’s hobbies. This series is arranged thematically and chronologically.

The **Photographs and Slides** series contains black-and-white and colored photographs, negatives and slides. The photographs are range in size, with the larger or oversized photographs placed toward the end of the series. The images consist of Sperry and Galligar, their friends and family, the places they lived at, the universities they attended, and the places they traveled to. There are several photographs of plants throughout the series. Several of the photographs have the name of place, people or plants written on the back of them. This series is arranged chronologically, then by relative size of the photo.

The **Midwest Quarterly Review** series comprises of the reviews of articles Sperry did for Midwest Quarterly between 1970 and 1990. There are miscellaneous correspondences at the end of the series. This series is arranged chronologically.

The **Genealogy** series is the history of the Sperry family. The series consists of correspondences, between the Sperry family, and between the historical societies, federal records, marriage certificates, applications, clippings, and article. A large portion is Anson Sperry’s autobiography, which includes the history of the United States Sanitary Commission and the history of the Red Cross. There are several photocopied books in the collection about the Sperry Family, including a biography of Anson and Thyrza Sperry. There are sales records and advertisements for these books.

The **Publications Not by Sperry-Galligar** series contains publications, mainly papers that Sperry and Galligar kept, most likely to help with their own research. The series is arranged by importance of the subject and then chronologically.

The **Miscellaneous** series consist of materials related to Galligar’s and Sperry’s hobbies. There are programs for plays and orchestras, drafts of poetry, Galligar’s journals, flyer and programs for biology and research centers, advertisements and bird cards.

The **Oversized Box** contains items that were too large for the regular boxes or were did not fit into any of the series. The items in the box are an atlas of the world in 1940, weather maps used by the Army Air Corps during World War II, soil survey maps of the Congo and Ruanda in 1952, blueprints for the Lyrrose House, homework for Galligar, a program for Elizabeth Travis, an old version of “The Night Before Christmas”, a travel magazine and book in German.

The **Map Folder** consists of soil, vegetation, and waterway maps for the Congo and Ruanda areas of Africa, between 1951 and 1952. Many of the maps are cut into squares and sewn onto canvas.

**FOLDER LIST**

**Correspondence Series**

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**Biographical Series**

Galligar

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f.345  Certificate of Baptism (1927)

f.346  Clippings of Galligar (1935 – 1975)

f.347  Galligar’s Diaries

f.348  Notes Written by Galligar

Sperry

f.349  Biographical Data (1973-93); Article (Undated)
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f.350  PSU Personal Data (1960-1966)

f.351  PSU Personal Data (1967-1973)

f.352  Short biography of Sperry
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f.353  “Ornithologist Tells How to Lose Money” (1956)
       “Biologist Red Faced: Return from Gulf Field Trip” (1971)
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f.354  “The Prairie Interview: Dr. Theodore Sperry” (1990)
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       “Ted Sperry, Prairie Restorationist” (1990)
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f.356 Announcements (1960 – 1994)
f.357 Clippings of Sperry (1933 – 1994; Undated at the back of the folder)
f.358 Sperry’s Memoir of Galligar
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f.417 A Proposed Tallgrass Prairie National Park by Mel J. Stout (1972)
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f.423 Flyer for Splendor in the Tallgrass (1972)
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f.439  Rough Draft and Research Materials for 1929 Thesis
f.440  Mutation and sports, with special reference to horticulture crops
f.441  A Preliminary Study of the Root Relations of Some Prairie Plants to Certain Soil Factors (1931) (Written with Galligar)
f.442  Materials for “A Preliminary Study…” (1931)
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f.461  Phycology Teaching materials
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f.491 Botany (1932)
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f.498 Notebook (undated)
f.499 Thesis: Growth Studies on Excised Root Tips (1934)
f.500 Subject of Proposed Research: Growth Studies in Sterile Nutrient Media (circa 1934)
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f.501 “Growth Studies” rough draft (circa 1934)
f.502 Thesis: The Environment and Absorption of Water by the Root
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f.505 German Paper
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f.522 Yearbook (1925)
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f.523 Yearbook (1930)

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f.525 Directories and Addresses

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f.527 Cold Spring Harbor Song Book (1926)
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