

# **Sources for Women's History**

Prepared By Debra Anderson  
November 2005

**Author/Creator:** Davidson, Flora Neil

**Title:** Papers, 1878-1996.

**Summary:** Papers of librarian Flora Neil Davidson, who worked for many years at the University of Wisconsin, which present a portrait of an early twentieth century career woman and glimpses of her work as a librarian. Included are several volumes of "diaries" which contain journal entries, poems, and quotations from written sources and from conversations; a list of books read; a guest book; a scrapbook with swatches of her dresses and descriptions of them and where they were worn; an extensive travel diary describing a 1929 trip to New England photographs of Davidson and of Madison, particularly the University of Wisconsin; and an autograph album, 1878-1885, which belonged to Allie M. Greene. The diaries, including the travel diary, are indexed.

**Call Number:** M96-070

**Author/Creator:** Davies, Hazel Lee, 1890-1980

**Title:** Papers, 1895-1976.

**Summary:** Diaries, correspondence, family papers, and photographs of a graduate nurse from Hortonville, Wis., who from 1918 to 1947 worked as a clerk and statistician-economist for the U.S. Coal Commission of the Bureau of Mines. Included are girlhood letters and a 1906 senior class-meeting notebook from Jennings Seminary in Aurora, Ill., and the Chicago Training School, both girls' boarding schools; letters and reminiscent articles about nursing and nurses' training, ca. 1908-1918, at St. Luke's Hospital, Racine, Wis.; and files on homes in Florida and Lake Tomahawk, Wisconsin. Among the correspondence are letters from Davies' niece, Lt. Col. Frances M. McClurkin, an Air Force nurse, 1955-1975, who was stationed in Japan and the Philippines; and letters from German and English women after World War II. The strength of the collection is the series of diaries kept by Davies. The entries document her every day life during the 1950s and 1960s as well as her views on world events.

**Call Number:** Mss 363

**Author/Creator:** Goska, Barbara

**Title:** Goska and Trinkner Papers, 1958-1960

**Summary:** This collection contains letters from two generations of a family, during war times. Of particular note, are the courtship letters between Barbara Trinkner and Ronald Goska. Numbering close to six hundred letters, the correspondence documents the courtship of two college students in the late 1950s. Topics discussed in the letters are feelings, college social life, studying for classes, family members, arranging for visits, and so on. The collection is unusual in that letters were saved by both individuals giving both the male and female perspective during the courtship.

**Call Number:** Unprocessed Green Bay Manuscript Collection

**Author/Creator:** Heller, Janet

**Title:** Papers, 1970-1978

**Summary:** Papers of a Madison resident active in various feminist organizations including correspondence, minutes leaflets, and other materials about the Madison Abortion Action Coalition and the Rape Crisis Center. Collection includes anonymous testimony about an abortion.

**Call Number:** Unprocessed Green Bay Manuscript Collection

**Author/Creator:** Lavin, Anna M.

**Title:** Diaries, 1944-1951

**Summary:** Diaries kept by Anna M. Lavin of Oregon, Wis. which gave a glimpse of life in a rural Wisconsin community from 1944-1951. Entries detail her daily activities which center around homemaking, particularly food preparation and cleaning, but also describe the weather, comings and goings of other family members, social activities with friends, and short trips to destinations such as Milwaukee and Madison.

**Call Number:** Mss 864

**Author/Creator:**

**Title:** Life Magazines, 1930s-1960s

**Summary:** Like a lot of things that have been around for a few generations, it's hard to imagine a time when LIFE didn't exist. But before its inception, there was simply nothing like it in America. Up to then, published photos had been posed and static. But in the early thirties a marvelously portable 35mm camera was developed that could take pictures of almost anything under the sun, and Henry R. Luce and his colleagues at Time Inc. made plans to use it for an entirely new publishing venture. Their project, shrouded in secrecy, emerged full-blown in November 1936, and journalism was forever changed.

A weekly until December 1972, then in semiannual special reports, and since 1978 as a monthly, LIFE has been the publication that has chronicled and provoked America's passions.

Though the weekly LIFE's life span covered only 37 years, it is impossible to think of any other magazine that had such an extraordinary impact. The weekly LIFE brought the world home to readers in a way they had never seen or experienced before. "Experienced" is the crucial word. A great picture is not merely seen, it demands an emotional response. LIFE created such responses countless times for millions of readers—and continues to do so to this day.

Most magazines are built around editors and writers, but LIFE has historically been built around photographers. But LIFE of course does more than present discrete photographic moments. The magazine was also a pioneer when it came to telling stories in still images. LIFE, in effect, created the photo-essay.

LIFE magazine does an excellent job of documenting women. The essays and photos document famous and ordinary women in all walks of life and all aspects of life. The advertisements are a rich source of information for social history issues related to women.

**Call Number:**

**Author/Creator:** United States Census Bureau

**Title:** Population Schedules, 1930

**Summary:** The Fifteenth Decennial Census was taken just five months after the collapse of the stock market in 1929. The census asked Americans to answer a series of questions about themselves. The responses to the questions provide rich information about a number of topics. For example, the census entries allow researchers to examine a family's wealth (did they own their home, did they have a radio); ethnicity (birthplace, native tongue); education levels (literacy, school attendance); and occupations (type of job, unemployment).

The 1930 census was the last census to ask every American the same set of questions.

**Call Number:** Microfilm collections

**Author/Creator:**

**Title:** Waldo-Henderson family papers, 1829-1979

**Summary:** Papers of a prominent family from Green Bay, Wisconsin, primarily documenting the women of that family. Included are numerous photographic snapshots and portraits, original and transcribed copies of diaries, correspondence, clippings, writings, notes, and genealogical material. Among the individuals represented are Morris A. Waldo (1828-1902) and his first wife Ann Eliza Appleton Waldo (1832-1862); her sister Susan Appleton Brown; their daughter Mary Adele Waldo Henderson (1858-1939); and two of her daughters, Anna Laura Henderson Jackson (1858-1957) and Ruth A. Henderson (1890-1980), and her granddaughter Anne Jackson Foster (1911-). Of note are an autobiography and letters of Susan Brown; and radio talks, student papers, and World War II era correspondence of Laura Henderson Jackson exchanged with her daughter Anne Jackson Foster primarily concerning child care and family matters.

**Call Number:** Green Bay Mss 107

**Author/Creator:** Wisconsin Extension Homemakers Council

**Title:** The Impact of her spirit oral history project, 1983-1989

**Summary:** An oral history project undertaken by members of the Wisconsin Extensions Homemakers Council as a celebration of the organization's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, focusing on the life stories of Wisconsin homemakers and on the influence of the WEHC in their lives. Included are tape-recorded interviews, transcripts, a published guide to the project, a copy of "Taste Wisconsin History" (a cookbook derived from the project).

**Call Number:** Green Bay Mss 107

**Author/Creator:** Women of the Ku Klux Klan. Klan 14 (Chippewa Falls, Wis.)

**Title:** Records, 1926-1931

**Summary:** Photocopies of records of a chapter of the Women of the Ku Klux Klan; consisting of minutes, financial reports, communications from the Wisconsin Realm Office and from Imperial Headquarters, and miscellaneous items.

**Call Number:** Eau Claire SC 18

**Author/Creator:** Zieve, Charlotte

**Title:** Reminiscence, 1994

**Summary:** A short account of an illegal abortion performed in Wisconsin in 1968. At the time, Zieve was 42 years old and a “well to do” mother of six. She describes a ten-minute procedure performed without anesthetic by a doctor who had lost his license to practice medicine.

**Call Number:** SC 1695