Collection Summary

Title: Anita Newcomb McGee Papers
Span Dates: 1688-1932
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1869-1932)
ID No.: MSS32110
Creator: McGee, Anita Newcomb, 1864-1940
Extent: 3,000 items; 12 containers plus 1 oversize; 5.1 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Anthropologist and physician. Correspondence, diaries, family papers, writings, scientific and medical data, and miscellaneous material pertaining to McGee's studies of communistic societies in the United States such as the Shakers and the Bethel and Oneida communities, to her duties as acting assistant surgeon, U.S. Army in the Spanish-American War; and to the formation of the Women's Anthropological Society of America. Contains family correspondence of McGee's grandfather, Charles A. Hassler, which includes a letter from James Madison, 1832.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People
Davenport, Charles Benedict, 1866-1944--Correspondence.
Hassler, Charles A. (Charles Augustus), 1810-1846--Correspondence.
Holden, Edward Singleton, 1846-1914--Correspondence.
Longley, Alcander, 1832-1918--Correspondence.
Madison, James, 1751-1836--Correspondence.
McGee family.
McGee, Anita Newcomb, 1864-1940.
Newcomb family.
Newcomb, Eric McGee, 1902-1930--Correspondence.
Newcomb, Simon, 1835-1909--Correspondence.
Pinchot, Gifford, 1865-1946--Correspondence.

Organizations
Bethel Community.
Oneida Community.
United States. Army--Medical care.
Women's Anthropological Society of America.

Subjects
Anthropology--Societies, etc.
Anthropology.
Collective settlements.
Communal living.
Hygiene.
Medicine.
Shakers.
Spanish-American War, 1898--Medical care.

Occupations
Anthropologists.
Physicians.
Administrative Information

Provenance
The papers of Anita Newcomb McGee, anthropologist and physician were given to the Library of Congress by McGee between 1915 and 1950.

Processing History
The papers of Anita Newcomb McGee were arranged and described circa 1980. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Related Material
Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the papers of Simon Newcomb, Anita Newcomb McGee's father.

Copyright Status
The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Anita Newcomb McGee is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions
The papers of Anita Newcomb McGee are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation
Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Anita Newcomb McGee Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date | Event
--- | ---
1864, Nov. 4 | Born, Washington, D.C.
1888 | Married W. J. McGee (died 1912)
1892 | Received medical degree, Columbian College, Washington, D.C.
1892-1896 | Private practice, Washington, D.C.
1898 | Appointed acting assistant surgeon general in charge of army under the Army Surgeon General Department Founded Society of Spanish-American War Nurses
1904-1905 | Led group of volunteer nurses to Japan, establishing a field hospital for the Imperial Japanese Army and serving as military medical attaché and observer with the Japanese Army in Manchuria.
1940, Oct. 5 | Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note
The papers of Anita Newcomb McGee (1864-1932) span the years 1688-1932, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1869-1932. They consist of correspondence, drafts of articles, diaries, notebooks, scientific and medical notes,
news clippings, photographs and memorabilia, with some photostatic material. The collection is organized by type of material.

An “Idea Book” contains McGee's writings on subjects such as “Happiness” and “Use of imagination in science.” A considerable amount of the correspondence is with family, especially her father, Simon Newcomb, mathematician and astronomer, and her son, Eric Newcomb McGee, who changed his name to Eric McGee Newcomb. Included are holograph copies of lectures and articles on hygiene and medical matters. There are also articles derived from McGee's studies of communist societies in the United States such as the Shakers, and the Bethel and Oneida communities. A segment of the collection relates to the formation of the Women's Anthropological Society of America, and there are letters written while McGee was acting assistant surgeon, United States Army, in the Spanish-American War.

Principal correspondents in addition to those mentioned include Gifford Pinchot, Charles Benedict Davenport, Alcander Longley, and Edward Singleton Holden.

Included in the collection is the family correspondence, 1836-1846, of McGee's grandfather, Charles A. Hassler, a surgeon in the United States Navy, containing a letter from James Madison, 1832.

**Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged by type of material or subject.
# Container List

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