

Anita Newcomb McGee Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2012

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79032110>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms012124>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2012

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

Extent: 12 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 5.1 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79032110>

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 LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Davenport, Charles Benedict, 1866-1944--Correspondence.

Hassler, Charles A. (Charles Augustus), 1810-1846--Correspondence.

Holden, Edward S. (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.

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

Container	Contents
BOX 1	General correspondence
BOX 1	A-M
BOX 2	N-Z
BOX 3	Newcomb, Eric McGee, correspondence (died 1931)
BOX 4	Diaries, 1879-1882
BOX 4	Family and friends correspondence
BOX 4	1869-1883
BOX 5	1884-1890
BOX 6	Articles and notebooks
BOX 7	Communist societies in the United States and eugenics
BOX 7	Clippings, photographs, notes, articles
BOX 8	Biographical sketch and notes
BOX 8	School compositions
BOX 8	Drawing books
BOX 8	German literature books
BOX 9	Miscellaneous notes and memoranda
BOX 10	Cards and invitations
BOX 10	Photographs
BOX 10	Newspaper clippings
BOX 10	Memorabilia (European trip)
BOX 11	Business papers
BOX 11	School reports
BOX 11	Printed matter
BOX 12	Hassler, Charles A., correspondence
BOX 12	Madison, James, letter, 1832
BOX 12	Clayton, John, photostatic copies of letter, 1688
BOX 12	Accounts, 1772, 1779
BOX OV 1	Oversize album