

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER LIBRARY
ABILENE, KANSAS

DOWD, ELEANOR M.: Papers, 1897-1953

Accession 96-10
Processed by: TB
Date Completed: August 2001

The papers of Eleanor M. Dowd were received at the Eisenhower Library in January 1965 as part of the papers of her sixth cousin Mamie Doud Eisenhower.

Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 1.2
Approximate number of pages: 2400
Approximate number of items: 1000

The papers were processed under the instrument of gift signed by Mrs. Eisenhower on August 30, 1966. Literary rights held by Mrs. Eisenhower in any of her own writings found within this collection have been donated to the public. Under terms of the instrument of gift the following classes of documents are withheld from research use:

1. Papers relating to family and personal affairs.
2. Papers relating to investigations of individuals or to appointments and personnel matters.
3. Papers containing statements made in confidence unless in the judgment of the Director of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library the reason for the confidentiality no longer exists.
4. All other papers which contain information or statements that might be used to injure, harass, or damage any living person.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Eleanor M. Dowd was born in 1865 at North Huron, Wayne County, New York, the daughter of Alfred F. and Catharine (Eckerson) Dowd. Her father had an interest in family history and assisted W.W. Dowd of Port Chester, New York, in compiling an extensive genealogy of the Doud/Dowd family that was published in 1885. Miss Dowd became a teacher, and taught school in New York for many years. After her retirement in the 1920s she traveled widely. She took a cruise through the Panama Canal in 1927 and in 1928 went to the South Pacific. In the early 1930s she began spending the winters in Florida and eventually moved there permanently.

Miss Dowd also had an interest in genealogy. After her retirement she decided to bring W.W. Dowd's genealogy up to date. For a few years, about 1932-35, she contacted many Doud/Dowd descendants asking for information on their branches of the family. The information she acquired was copied onto scraps of paper and organized according to the same numbering system used in W.W. Dowd's book. Miss Dowd never completed her research and appears to have abandoned the project after a few years. However, she managed to obtain considerable information on several branches of the family of which W.W. Dowd had no knowledge.

Miss Dowd never married and her only sibling had died in childhood so she had no close relatives. For the last few years of her life she lived with Mrs. Louise Eller of Miami, Florida. After her death Mrs. Eller found Miss Dowd's research notes and personal papers filed in a cupboard in her home. In August 1964 Mrs. Eller gave the papers to Mamie Doud Eisenhower. Eleanor and Mamie were sixth cousins but were not acquainted. Mrs. Eisenhower's staff transferred the papers to the Eisenhower Library in January 1965 as part of Mrs. Eisenhower's 1964 correspondence files.

The papers of Eleanor M. Dowd have been organized into two series. The first series contains Miss Dowd's genealogical research notes. This includes the drafts and outlines of her proposed revision of the Doud/Dowd genealogy. Of particular importance is Miss Dowd's file on the descendants of #412 Benjamin Doud. This is Mamie Eisenhower's branch of the family. W.W. Dowd's book had very little information on Benjamin's descendants, but Miss Dowd's file is quite extensive. Most of the information on this branch of the family appears to have come from Miss Carrie C. Faling of Rome, New York, whose mother Sarah Doud Faling was a sister of Mamie's grandfather Royal H. Doud. There is also a small quantity of information on Miss Dowd's maternal relatives, the Jones, Eckerson and Serven families, who were not Dowd descendants.

The second series contains Miss Dowd's personal papers, including her diaries, social correspondence, and memorabilia. Most of the diaries contain only brief entries concerning weather conditions, Miss Dowd's shopping trips and housekeeping chores, and names of persons she visited in New York and Florida. A special diary from 1928 is much more extensive as it contains detailed notes on Miss Dowd's cruise to the South Pacific.

CONTAINER LIST

Box No. Contents

- 1 Series I: Genealogical Research Notes
- Drafts and Outlines (1)-(4)
- Miscellaneous Notes (1)-(4)
412. Benjamin Doud (1) (2) [Mamie Eisenhower's family]
617. Job Dowd
2304. Asahel Dowd
2311. Watson Dowd
2337. Mercy Dowd Webb
5812. Harriet Dowd White
5819. Emily Chapin Shepard
5832. Alice Dowd Denton
5835. Orson Dowd
- 2 Eckerson – Serven Family (1)(2) [relatives of Eleanor Dowd's mother]
- Jones Family [relatives of Eleanor Dowd's paternal grandmother]
- Series II: Personal Papers
- Correspondence 1897-1931 [1897 letter from W.W. Dowd]
- Correspondence 1933 (1)(2)
- Correspondence 1935-53
- Correspondence Undated
- Diary 1927-33, 1934-38 [bound 5-year diaries; brief daily entries re weather, places Eleanor went and people she visited]
- 3 Diary 1939-43, 1944-48

Diary 1928 (1)-(3) [Southern California; Pacific cruise; Tahiti; New Zealand;
Australia; long stay in Hawaii]

First Presbyterian Church (1) (2)

Memorabilia (1) (2)

Memorabilia – Chicago World's Fair 1933

END OF CONTAINER LIST