



Descriptive Summary

Title: The Evelyn Sapa Collection

Repository: Beulah Williams Library Archives and Special Collections, Northern State University

Creator: Evelyn Sapa

Dates: 1941-2006

Extent: 8.50 linear feet

Administrative Information

Acquisitions Information: Materials were donated from a variety of people and from different departments within Northern State.

Processing Information: This collection was processed by Rachel Senese and Sarah Jones

Access Restrictions: Some materials are restricted to public use.

Copyright Notice: Literary rights and copyrights, when applicable, have been assigned to Beulah Williams Library

Preferred Citation: Item Name, Series Name, Date, Evelyn Sapa Collection, Northern State University Archives and Special Collections, Williams Library, Aberdeen, SD.

Biographical Note

Brown County History

Evelyn Sapa was an active resident of Brown County, South Dakota. During her time in Brown County, she collected a plethora of items on its history.

League of Women Voters

“The League of Women voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.”¹ Evelyn Sapa was a member of the Aberdeen Area League of Women Voters.

Pre-Glider Training School

The glider pilot training school in Aberdeen, South Dakota ran from May 1942 – September 1942 and was held on four quarter sections of farmland northeast of Aberdeen. The training was a 10-week course divided into Class A and Class B. Class A was for students with no flying experience and class B was a four-week class for those who had flying experience. The courses taught were in meteorology, navigation, maintenance, instruments, chemical war defense and identification. 300 students ranging in ages from 18-36 were scheduled to partake in the training over the course of the summer. The students, 30 staff members, and headquarters for the training school were housed in Seymour Hall at Northern Teachers College.

N.H. “Scout” Mewaldt was the civilian ground school supervisor while Clarence Abeln, Lloyd F. Johnson, Harold Jones, and George Schaunaman were some of the instructors. No gliders were using during the hands on training. Because of this, the school was referred to as Pre-glider. Instead, candidates practiced on dead stick landings with smallcrafts. To simulate the glider landings, they shut off the engines and glided in for a landing. Those who passed the training were transferred to Basic Glider Training elsewhere and eventually to Advanced Glider schools.

¹ “League of Women Voters Mission Statement.” *League of Women Voters*. <http://lwv.org/content/league-women-voters-united-states>

One serious accident happened on August, 21 1942 were a student pilot and civilian instructor were killed 10 miles southeast of Aberdeen. Additionally, on August 17, 1942, a glider pilot trainee (Robert Vanderwalker) murdered a local resident (Dorothy Blair).

Scope and Content

This collection is arranged into three series: *Brown County History*, *League of Women Voters*, and *Pre-Glider Training School*. The *League of Women Voters* and the *Pre-Glider Training School* series include sub-series. The majority of the items are arranged chronologically. Specific arrangement statements are addressed in the **Series Descriptions** below. The formats within this collection include correspondence, maps, newspaper clippings, notes, photographs, and publications. This collection is entirely in English.

Series Descriptions

Series 1: Brown County History

Box: 4,5,6,8, MF4:C:DR2 Dates: 1961-2005

This series is comprised of booklets, books, calendars, correspondence, ephemera, government reports, maps, newspaper clippings, notes, postcards, and publications. The majority of the items are newspaper clippings about Brown County and Aberdeen. Common subjects include the Dacotah Prairie Museum and historic buildings. This series is entirely in English. This series is arranged chronologically. Mrs. Sapa grouped together items and placed them in folder with titles. Those titles, when included, have not been changed. If an item was not in a folder, it was placed in its own folder. Publications will eventually be cataloged and placed separately in the Archives Reading Room.

Series 2: League of Women Voters

Box: 1,2,3

Dates: 1949-2006

This series is comprised of booklets, books, brochures, correspondence, ephemera, magazines, newspaper clippings, notes, and publications. This series is entirely in English. Mrs. Sapa grouped together items and placed them in folder with titles. Those titles, when included, have not been changed. If an item was not in a folder, it was placed in its own folder.

This series is arranged into 3 sub-series: Subject Files, Daily Workings, and Publications.

Sub-Series 2a: Subject Files Box: 1 Dates: 1949-2005

This sub-series is arranged chronologically.

Sub-Series 2b: Daily Workings Box: 3 Dates: 1952-2006

This sub-series is arranged chronologically.

Sub-Series 2c: Publications Box: 1, 2 Dates: 1965-2006

This sub-series is arranged alphabetically. Publications will eventually be cataloged and placed separately in the Archives Reading Room.

Series 3: Pre-Glider Training School Box: 7 Dates: 1941-2004

This series is comprised of copies of newspaper clippings relating to the pre-glider school during the summer of 1942, the murder of Dorothy Blair, various papers written about the two subjects and Alfred Sapa's correspondence and research about the school for an exhibit in 1989 located in the Aberdeen Regional Airport. Some notable items in the collection are the Declassified history of the 26th Army Air Forces Glider Training Detachment in Aberdeen, the transcript from the State of South Dakota vs. Robert Bruce Vanderwalker court case, and the course binder of Civilian Ground School Supervisor N.H. Mewaldt.

This series is arranged into 4 sub-series: The Sapa papers, Other Donations, University Records, and N.H. Mewaldt's course binder. Within each sub-series the folders are organized alphabetically. This series is entirely in English.

Sub-Series 3a: Sapa Papers Box: 7 Dates: 1941-2001

This series is a collection of Alfred Sapa's correspondence and research towards creating an exhibit on the glider pilots in the Aberdeen Regional airport in 1989.

Sub-Series 3b: Other Donations Box: 7 Dates: 2004

These folders contain photographs, newspaper clips and student papers that were written and collected over time.

Sub-Series 3c: University Records

Box: 7

Dates: 1941-1942,
1967, 1972, 1992-1993

These folders include records that the university and library collected over time. They include newspaper clippings, copies of yearbook pages, and student papers.

Sub-Series 3d: N.H. Mewaldt's Course Binder

Box: 7

Dates: 1942

This series is comprised of the pages within N.H. "Scout" Mewaldt's course binder which includes course syllabi, and grades of the students in each of the classes. Lloyd F. Johnson signed one of the gradebook pages as an instructor.

Detailed Description of the Collection

1. Series 1: Brown County History

Box #4

- FF 1 County Survey (1961, 1972)
- FF 2 Music Programs (NSU and Community) (1968-1971)
- FF 3 Newspaper Articles covering major events in county (1968-2005)
- FF 4** Aberdeen Community (esp. related to churches and YMCA) (1968-1985) -
RESTRICTED
- FF 5** Local Survey (1970) - **RESTRICTED**
- FF 6 Miscellaneous Evelyn Sapa Notebook (c. 1970)
- FF 7 City of Aberdeen *Report to the People* Calendars (1972-1979)
- FF 8** Community Development Committee (September 1974 - January 1975) -
RESTRICTED
- FF 9 Aberdeen Centennial Celebration (including *Historic Aberdeen, 1981*) (1981)
- FF 10 City of Aberdeen *Report to the People* Calendars (1982-1991)
- FF 11 Dacotah Prairie Museum (1997-1998)
- FF 12 "Aberdeen Hagerty/Lloyd Historic District" (1999)
- FF 13 Historic Brown County Calendar of photos from the Dacotah Prairie Museum and Handout (1999)
- FF 14 Turn of the Century Calendar of photos from the Dacotah Prairie Museum (2000)
- FF 15 Desk calendar with images of historic Aberdeen main street (2003)
- FF 16 "Aberdeen Historic Depot Restoration" (2005)
- FF 17 Remembering World War II in Aberdeen (2005)

Item 1 *Information Pamphlet No. 4: Major Aquifers and Sand and Gravel Resources in Brown County, South Dakota* (1973)

- Item 2 *Brown County Solid Waste Management Program (September 1974)*
- Item 3 *Geology and Water Resources of Brown County, South Dakota (September 1978)*
- Item 4 *Brown County History 1980*
- Item 5 *James River Landscapes: Historic Sites Brown County (2001)*
- Items 6,7 *Living Legacies: Railroad Stations of Brown County, South Dakota (2 copies)*
- Item 8 *Brown County Courthouse, "A Century Landmark" (2004)*
- Item 9 *Relief and Recovery: The New Deal in Brown County (2005)*

Box #5

- FF 1 *Know Your County (1965-1984)*
- FF 2 *Private Education (1971)*
- FF 3 *County Justice documents (1971-1982)*
- FF 4 *WBID (1974-1983)*
- FF 5 *Wastewater Sheets (1975-1987)*
- FF 6 *Co-op (1976-1988)*
- FF 7 *Solid Waste Plan (1973-1992)*
- FF 8 *Brown County Commission—Politicians (1973-1993)*
- FF 9 *Taxes (1975-1994)*
- FF 10 *Uranium Ordinance (1979-1983)*
- FF 11 *Jail/Sheriff (1978-1996)*
- FF 12 *Juvenile detention (1978-1997)*
- FF 13 *Welfare (1980-1997)*
- FF 14 *South Dakota Water (1982-1993)*
- FF 15 *Court/Law (1984-1995)*
- FF 16 *Victims study (1985-1995)*
- FF 17 *Ambulance (1986-1994)*
- FF 18 *Legislators—South Dakota (1988-1996)*
- FF 19 *County Commission—Govt (1989-1995)*
- FF 20 *Voter Registration (1989-1996)*
- FF 21 *Hazardous Waste (1990-1993)*
- FF 22 *Co. Issues—Museum (1990-1995)*
- FF 23 *911 (1991-1995)*
- FF 24 *BC Water (1971, 1990-1996)*
- FF 25 *Landfill Recycling (1990-1996)*
- FF 26 *Voter Service (1992-1994)*
- FF 27 *Hog Farms (1996-1997)*
- FF 28 *Schools (1996-1997)*

- Item 1 *Aberdeen Area Directory of Social and Welfare Services, Agencies and Organizations (1970)*

Box #6

- FF 1 *Korczak Ziolkowski (1975)*
- FF 2 *Historical Brown County (1968-1994)*
- FF 3 *Brown County History (mostly 1985-1987, some 1970-1981)*
- FF 4 *Brown County Festival of Nations Cook Book (1981)*

- FF 5 Aberdeen History (1970-1991)
- FF 6 Brown County History (1972-1990)
- FF 7 County History (1975-1989)
- FF 8 Dacotah Prairie Museum (1973-2000)
- FF 9 Sips of Wein, Sister Anna Marie Weinreis (1981-1989)
- FF 10 Arts (1985-1996)
- FF 11 Sioux Falls Catholic Diocese: 100 Years Calendar (1989)
- FF 12 Trail of the 1989: Centennial Wagon Trail (1989)
- FF 13 Fischer Quintuplets (1981-2002)
- FF 14 A Guide to the Hagerty & Lloyd Historic District (1990)
- FF 15 Miscellaneous – History Brown County (1983-2001)
- FF 16 L. Frank Baum (1990-1996)
- FF 17 Schweitzer Twins (1991-1995)
- FF 18 The Town in the Frog Pond (1991)
- FF 19 American Cancer Society Tour of Homes (1992)
- FF 20 The Myth of ‘A Man’s House is His Castle’: An Interpretive History of Easton’s
Castle (2 copies) (1992)
- FF 21 St. Luke’s Midland Regional Medical Center Calendar (1992)
- FF 22 Aberdeen’s Park Heritage, 1881-1931 (1995)
- FF 23 The Aberdeen/Brown County Landmark Commission’s Calendar (1997)
- FF 24 Centennial Village (n.d.)
- FF 25 John & Alice Pickler Home (n.d.)
- FF 26 South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center Visitor’s Guide (n.d.)

- Item 1 *Historic Aberdeen* (1981)
- Item 2 A Souvenir of Aberdeen, The Railroad Hub of the Dakotas (1992)
- Item 3 *Aberdeen’s Parkland Heritage, 1881-1931* (1995)
- Item 4 Mother Goose in Prose, by L. Frank Baum, edited by Don Artz (1997)
- Item 5 *Monuments, Markers, Memorials of Brown County* (1998)
- Item 6 The Life and Times of the Dacotah Prairie Museum Building (2000)
- Item 7 *Design Guidelines for Historic Aberdeen* (n.d.)
- Item 8 *Municipal Building: Aberdeen, SD* (n.d.)

Box #8

- Item 1 Saturday Evening Post (November 1963)
- Item 2 Ladies Home Journal (December 1963)
- Item 3 Saturday Evening Post (May 2, 1964)
- Item 4 Saturday Evening Post (Partial) (September 26, 1964)
- Item 5 Aberdeen American News, Centennial Souvenir Edition (Sunday, June 28, 1981)

MF4:C:DR2

- FF 1 Map of Aberdeen (August 9, 1983) – 2 copies;
Map of Aberdeen – Soil Map (February 15, 1973);
Map of Brown County (n.d.) – 2 copies;
Map of Brown County – Comprehensive Plan of Existing Land Use (1970);
Map of Brown County – Comprehensive Plan of Future Land Use (1970);
Map of Brown County – Highway Map (n.d.) – 3 copies;
Map of Brown County Irrigation (n.d.);

- Map of Brown County Townships (n.d.);
- Map of Midwest – Water Development for Lakes and Reservoirs Existing and Under Investigation (June 30, 1967);
- Map of South Dakota (Prepared by the State-Wide Highway Planning Survey) (n.d.)
- FF 2 Map of Aberdeen (1971)

2. Series 2: League of Women Voters

a. Sub-Series 2a: Subject Files

Box #1

- FF 1 Racial Prejudice (1949-1950)
- FF 2 Foreign Affairs (1950-1954, 1991)
- FF 3 Car Fumes (1959-1960)
- FF 4 Population Growth and Decline (1964-1966, 1989-2001)
- FF 5 Housing (1965-1968)
- FF 6 School Desegregation (1969)
- FF 7 D.C. Statehood/Home Rule (1965-1972, 1992)
- FF 8 Congress (1968-1977)
- FF 9 National Positions (1973)
- FF 10 National Programs (1972-1976, 1992)
- FF 11 Electoral College (1968-1992)
- FF 12 Women's Rights (1976)
- FF 13 Economic Deficit (1977-1987)
- FF 14 Welfare (1970, 1990)
- FF 15 Presidency—Executive (1974-1994)
- FF 16 Medicare (1979-1996)
- FF 17 UN Day (1979-1997)
- FF 18 Campaign for a Safer World (1983-1990)
- FF 19 Child Care and Abortion (1988-1990)
- FF 20 Voter Registration (1988-1990)
- FF 21 Long-term Care (1989-1992)
- FF 22 Campaign finance reform (1989-1996)
- FF 23 Health Care (1990-1994)
- FF 24 Emergency planning (1986-1998)
- FF 25 National Endowment for the Arts (1997)
- FF 26 Women's suffrage (1991-2005)

b. Sub-Series 2b: Daily Workings

Box #3

- FF 1 Election booklet (1952)
- FF 2 National Continuing Responsibilities (1966-68)
- FF 3 Evelyn Sapa Nametags/LWV Membership Cards/Dues (1968-1976; 1989; n.d.)

- FF 4** Membership lists/Recruiting folders (1968-1990)-**RESTRICTED**
- FF 5 Notebook (1972)
- FF 6 State Convention Newspaper Clippings (1973)
- FF 7** SDLWV Nominating Committee Notes (1971-1977) - **RESTRICTED**
- FF 8 LWV US letters (1968-1995)
- FF 9 "Uncle Tom" – Matilda Gage (1974)
- FF 10 National, State, and Local Bylaws (1975-1991)
- FF 11 Program planning (1971-1993)
- FF 12 Aberdeen Comprehensive Plan and Urban Development Policies –
Correspondence (January 29, 1979)
- FF 13 Miscellaneous papers & clippings (1971-1984)
- FF 14** Publicity folder (1974-1995)-**RESTRICTED**
- FF 15 Brown County Voter notes (1980)
- FF 16** Past presidents of LWV (1980)-**RESTRICTED**
- FF 17** LWV board minutes (1980-81)-**RESTRICTED**
- FF 18 LWV board minutes (1981)
- FF 19 LWV meeting minutes (1981)
- FF 20 LWV survey sheets (1984-1989)
- FF 21 Harriet Montgomery water resources guide (1986-1987)
- FF 22 Legislative day (1985-1990)
- FF 23 Background information and newspaper clippings about LWV (1980-1995)
- FF 24 National LWV Papers (1987-1999)
- FF 25 A Planning Guide for Local and State Legislature (1989)
- FF 26 SDLWV audit (1989-1992)
- FF 27 SDLWV State League (1990-1992)
- FF 28 Helen Springer correspondence (1991-1992)
- FF 29** League of Women Voters directories (1991-2005) - **RESTRICTED**
- FF 30 Correspondence (1989-2005)
- FF 31 Harriet Montgomery correspondence (1995-1998)
- FF 32 Guide to 1996 elections (1996)
- FF 33** Budget/finance drive (1996-1998)-**RESTRICTED**
- FF 34 Leader's resource catalog (1997)
- FF 35 LWV board minutes (1998-99)
- FF 36** LWV luncheon (1996-2002)-**RESTRICTED**
- FF 37 Awards Ceremonies (1998-2005)
- FF 38 Aberdeen Area Voters newsletter (1997-2006)
- FF 39 LWV board minutes (2000-2001)
- FF 40 State Bulletins (2000-2001)
- FF 41 Candidate forum letter (2001)
- FF 42 LWV annual meeting (2001-2006)
- FF 43 State/National LWV (2001-06)
- FF 44 UN consensus & trade consensus papers (2002-2004)
- FF 45 Various League of Women Voters papers (2002-2005)
- FF 46 LWV meeting minutes (2002-2006)
- FF 47 National Mail (2005-2006)
- FF 48 LWV letterhead (n.d.)
- Item 1 3 League of Women Voters buttons

c. Sub-Series 2c: Publications

Box #1

FF 27 Facts (1965-1980)
FF 28 LWV Brochures (1971-1981)
FF 29 A Planning Guide for Local and State Leagues (1981)
FF 30 "Impact on Issues, 1986-88: A Leader's Guide to National Program"
FF 31 Education Fund (1990)
FF 32 "Impact on Issues, 1990-92: A Leader's Guide to National Program"

Box #2

Item Aberdeen Comprehensive Plan and Urban Development Policies, City Planning
Department
Item Brown County Comprehensive Plan: Zoning Ordinance Subdivision regulations
Item Choosing the President: A Citizen's Guide to the 2000 Election, League of Women
Voters
Item Five Year Review Report, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FF 1 Guidelines for League boards (2 copies) (1975-1979)
Item In Touch
Item Indian Country, League of Women Voters Education Fund (1976)
Items League of Women Voters Catalogs (1978-1985, 1988-1989, 1994)
Item Legislative Manual, South Dakota 1983, Alice Kundert, Secretary of State
FF 2 Miscellaneous brochures & bulletins (n.d.)
Items National Voter (1965-2006)
Item Our Growing Water Problems, by R.G. Lynch
Items Report from the Hill
Item The Nuclear Waste Primer, a Handbook for Citizens, League of Women Voters
Education fund (1985)
Item The State Tax Laws: A Guide for Investors aged 50 and over, AARP
Item This is Your Town: Aberdeen, South Dakota April 1961, League of Women Voters

3. Series 3: Pre-Glider Training School

a. Sub-Series 3a: Sapa Papers

Box #7

FF1 Sapa Papers Class List
FF2 Sapa Papers Correspondence
FF3 Sapa Papers Declassified History of the 26th Army Air Forces Glider Training
Detachment, Aberdeen South Dakota
FF4 Sapa Papers loose papers about the Glider School
FF5 Sapa Papers Copies of Evelyn Sapa's Personal Photos
FF6 Copies of news Articles relating to the Glider School from the Aberdeen American
News [1942-2001]

- FF7 Copies of news articles relating to the Glider School from Northern's The Exponent [1942-1946]
- FF8 Sapa Papers Copies of Newspaper clippings about the glider school and WWII efforts [1941-1947]
- FF9 Transcript of the court case "State of South Dakota vs. Robert Bruce Vanderwalker #8675"

b. Sub-Series 3b: Other Donations

Box #7

- FF10 [research about gliders]
- FF11 [photographs of the glider school at Northern]
- FF12 "The True Enemy: Aberdeen, Bars and the Murder of Dorothy Blair" by Alysa Haugen [2004]

c. Sub-Series 3c: University Records

Box #7

- FF13 Civilian Pilot Training (Pasque - '41, '42) #1674
- FF14 Civilian Pilot training (Exponent articles) #1675
- FF15 "Contributions of Northern State Teachers College to the World War II Effort" by Stacy L. Olsen #1677
- Item 1 "Field Problems" by Bruce Durham [1972]
- FF16 Glider School #1686
- FF17 "Gliders and Northern State Teachers College" by Chad Anderson #1676
- Item 2 "Plane Surveying" by John Anderson [May 24, 1967]
- FF18 Vanderwalker-Blair Murder #1687

d. Sub-Series 3d: N.H. Mewaldt's Course Binder

Box #7

- FF19 Course Binder pt. 1 "The Pre-Glider School Summer 1942 Aberdeen, South Dakota" N.H. Mewaldt Civilian Ground School Supervisor; Course Syllabi: Meteorology, navigation, Maintenance, Identification, Instruments, and Chemical War Defense
- FF20** Course Binder pt. 2 "The pre-Glider School Summer 1942 Aberdeen, South Dakota" N.H. Mewaldt Civilian Ground School Supervisor; Gradebook: Meteorology, navigation, Instruments, Maintenance & Identification, Chemical War Defense; Classes: 42-15, 42-16, 42-17 (Sec. 1&2), 42-18A, 42-18B (Sec. 1&2), 42-19B, 42-20B, 42-21B (Sec. 1&2) - **Restricted**
- Item 3 Original Black Binder