



Descriptive Summary:

Title: The Millicent Atkins Collection

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

Creator: Millicent Atkins

Dates: 1896-1988

Extent: 5 linear feet

Administrative Information

Acquisitions Information: Donated by the Millicent Atkins Estate.

Processing Information: Processed by Sarah Jones

Access Restrictions: None

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

Preferred Citation: Item, Folder Name, Series, The Millicent Atkins Collection, Beulah Williams Library Archives and Special Collections, Northern State University

Biographical Note

Millicent Atkins earned her teaching degree from Northern State in 1940. After teaching school for several years, she joined the family business and became a farm manager. She eventually amassed more than 4,000 acres of valuable farmland in Brown County. Upon her death in 2012 at the age of 93, Ms. Atkins left approximately \$12.5 million to Northern State University. NSU earmarked the money for the School of Education, renaming it in honor of Ms. Atkins.¹

Millicent Atkins Timeline

May 1928	Millicent Atkins graduates from Hemen School in Columbia District #11
June 17, 1933	Graduates from 8 th grade in ceremony held in Aberdeen
1937	Graduates from Columbia High School with honors.
Fall 1937 – Winter 1938	Attended Minnesota University Farm School
February 28, 1940	Applies for a Primary Room teaching job in Bath, SD
March 26, 1940	Applies for a teaching position (3 rd and 4 th grades) in the Orient Schools, SD
May 29, 1940	Graduates from Northern State Teachers College with a “Two-Year Curricula Diploma and State Certificate” in Kindergarten-Primary Education
June 11, 1940	Receives her Elementary Second Certificate from the Dept. of Public Instruction (valid until July 1 st , 1947)
1940-1942	Taught in the Primary Room in Lebanon, SD
1942-1943	Taught first-second grade in Mobridge, SD
1943-1944	Taught first grade at the Lincoln School in Mobridge, SD
1944-1946	Taught in Mobridge, SD
June 10, 1946	Applies to teach first or second grade at Granite Falls City Schools → says she rejected Mobridge’s contract offer for \$1600.00 for the 1946-1947 school year
1946-1947	Teaches first grade in Webster, SD
1949-1950	Teaches first grade in Webster, SD
April 24, 1950	Sends Supt. Harvey Newsman (Webster) a letter with her unsigned teacher offer. The letter states that she wishes to “discontinue teaching for this next year.”
March 4, 1955	A letter from Millicent’s father states that Millicent had spent the winter with him in Hot Springs, Arkansas. He also states that “she taught school and worked for Employment Security for several years.”
February 24, 1958	Invited to a class reunion (20 th) at the School of Agriculture in St. Paul, Minnesota

¹ Di Mento, Maria. “No.50: Millicent Atkins (bequest). *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*. February 9, 2014. <https://www.philanthropy.com/article/No-50-Millicent-Atkins/153723>

May 22, 1963	Northern State Teachers College sends Millicent a letter of gratitude for the contribution she made to the scholarship fund for the school year 1962-1963
April 4, 1974	Millicent registers as a Republican voter in Brown County, SD

Millicent Atkins Teaching Registration by County:

1940-1942: Potter County
 1942-1946: Walworth County
 1946-1947: Day County
 1949-1950: Day County

Scope and Content

This collection is divided into two series, *Millicent Atkins* and *Books*. This collection includes correspondence, ephemera, newspapers, photographs, programs, seed bags, books, and a handwritten assignment. This collection is entirely in English.

Series Descriptions:

Series 1: Millicent Atkins Boxes: 1, 3-6 Dates: 1896-1976

This series is arranged chronologically. When there is no date, the items are arranged alphabetically at the end.

Series 2: Books Boxes: 2 Dates: 1896-1988

This series is arranged alphabetically.

Note on Books:

Most books from the collection have been removed from their boxes and catalogued. These books can be found by searching for Millicent Atkins in Aleph. These books are located in the Archives Reading Room.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series 1: Millicent Atkins

<i>Box #1</i>	
FF 1	Photographs (1896-1965)
FF 2	Booklet: Souvenir, At the End of School (May 18, 1928)
FF 3	22 nd Annual Eighth Grade Graduation, Brown County, South Dakota Public Schools (June 17, 1933)
FF 4	“When I Teach School” by Millicent Atkins (1938)
FF 5	NSTC 38 th Annual Commencement (May 1940)
FF 6	Primary Education Certificate and Transcript (1940-1942)
FF 7	Esther Relf’s Day by Day Plan Book (1942)
FF 8	Mobridge City Schools (1942-1944)
FF 9	Webster Public Schools (1946-1949)
FF 10	Correspondence (1940- 1963)
Item 1	Aberdeen Diamond Jubilee Button (1956)
FF 11	Aberdeen National Bank Pocket Calendar (1958)
FF 12	NSC Alumni Association (1958, 1975)
FF 13	Republican Party (1962)
Items 2-6	5 President Nixon election buttons (1968, 1972)
Item 7	Leo Thorsness button (c. 1970s)
FF 14	Millicent Atkins Voter Registration Card (April 4, 1974)
Item 8	President Ford Button (1976)
Item 9	South Dakota 1976 Button (1976)
Items 10-12	3 President Reagan election buttons (1980, 1984)
Items 13,14	50 th Anniversary Key Rings – SD Wheat Growers Association (1973)
Item 15	Aberdeen Seed Company Square Brand Hi-Germinating seed bag (n.d.)
Item 16	Blue Diamond Feeds Aberdeen, SD cloth (n.d.)
Item 17	Box of Pencil Lead (n.d.)
FF 15	Card with “Millicent Atkins” written on it (n.d.)
Items 18,19	2 Cloth bags (n.d.)
Item 20	Coteau Brand Seeds Alfalfa bag (n.d.)
FF 16	Postcards (n.d.)
FF 17	Seating Charts (n.d.)
Item 21	“Vote Republican” button (n.d.)

Box #3

Lenith Long Distance Radio in carrying case

Box #4

11 Aberdeen American Newspapers about the Quints

Box #5

Typewriter in box

Oversized - Box #6

Olwin Angell Store, Aberdeen clothing box

Missing as of 10/28/2016

The New York Store, Aberdeen clothing Box

Series 2: Books

Box #2

Item 1	1976 Atlas of Brown County
Item 2	1981 Atlas of Brown County
Item 3	1988 Atlas of Brown County
Item 4	Aberdeen Telephone Directory (February 1960)