



Descriptive Summary:

Title: The Helen Bergh Collection

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

Creator: Helen Bergh

Dates: 1920-1940, 1970, 1995

Extent: ½ linear foot

Administrative Information

Acquisitions Information: This collection was donated by an unknown donor.

Processing Information: This collection was processed by Toni Mayer.

Access Restrictions: None

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

Preferred Citation: [Item Name], The Helen Bergh Collection, Beulah Williams Library Archives and Special Collections, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD.

Biographical Note

Helen Bergh was born June 5, 1908 on her family's homestead near Aberdeen. She graduated from Aberdeen Central High School, and later attended Northern State College where she earned both a Bachelor's of Science Degree and Master's of Science Degree. She then taught in a one-room rural school for forty-three years. Helen Burgh was heavily involved in community school programs, including the Brown County Rural School Music Festival, Young Citizens League, and the Student Practice Teaching Programs through Northern State College. She also both helped establish and promote Aberdeen's Annual Festival of Nations.

During World War II she was involved with the Canteen Program in Aberdeen. She helped to establish the Dacotah Prairie Museum, working there from 1971-1990 and later was honored with the dedication of the Helen Bergh Room. She was involved in a variety of area organizations including Brown County Territorial Pioneers, South Dakota-Brown County Centennial Committee, the Brown County Historical Society, Delta Kappa Gama Society, American Association of University Women, the Lyre Music Club, Business and Professional Women, the James Valley Pioneer Threshing Association, Brookside Extension Club, Dakota Midland Corral of Westerners International, and the Cherry Creek Republican Women's Club. Helen Burgh was proud of her service to the community and received many acknowledgements for her efforts such as, being named First Lady of Aberdeen in 1978, being inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame, Who's Who of American Women, and Distinguished Alumni from Northern State College. She also received the Sertoma Services to Mankind Award, Outstanding Friend of Education Award, and the Certificate of Commendations award from the State and Local History Association.

Information found at: Obituaries, [Aberdeen American News](#). September 3 2002.

Scope and Content

This collection is arranged into one series, *Teaching Career*, which focuses on Helen Bergh's time as a teacher. The items have been arranged by chronological order, with

undated items at the back. The formats within this collection consist of newspaper clippings, a paper written by Helen Bergh, a program pamphlet, an envelope, and photographs. This collection is entirely in English.

Series Descriptions:

Series Title: Teaching Career Boxes: 1 Dates: 1920-1940, 1970, 1995

Detailed Description of the Collection

1. Series Title: Teaching Career

Box #1

Envelope addressed to Helen Bergh, 1995

FF1 Brookside School Photographs, 1920-1943

FF2 The Ruralite, April 15, 1921

FF3 The Rural Demonstration School Chorus, 1926

FF4 Northern State Teachers College European Festivals Program, 1938

FF5 The Rural Light, April 1938

FF6 "41 Years of Service" Newspaper Clipping Aberdeen American News, June 7, 1970

FF7 Paper "Northern Rural Teachers Training 1920-1960" (n.d.)