New York State Geographical Association Records
[1935-1947]

Descriptive Summary:

Title: The New York Geographical Association Records

Date Span: [1935-1947]

Acquisition Number: N/A

Creator: The New York Geographical Association

Donor: Dr. Katheryne Whittemore Estate, via Dr. Theodore Kury, Chairman, Geography and Planning Department, Buffalo State College.

Date of Acquisition: 1987

Extent: 1 box; .5 linear ft.

Language: English

Location: Archives & Special Collections Department, E. H. Butler Library, SUNY Buffalo State

Processed: 1987; reprocessed 2006

Information on Use:

Access: The New York Geographical Association Records is open for research.

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Preferred Citation:
[Description and dates], Box/folder number, The New York Geographical Association Records, Archives & Special Collections Department, E. H. Butler Library, SUNY Buffalo State.

Biographical Note:
The New York State Geographical Association Collection was donated to Buffalo State College by the estate of Dr. Katheryne T. Whittemore. Dr. Whittemore (1899-1981) was an instructor and administrator at the College for thirty-seven years, serving specifically as a professor of geography from 1925-1962 and having been appointed to the newly-created post of director of the Division of Arts and Sciences in 1957. She was an active member of the New York State Geographical Association, of which she often assumed a leadership role in its meetings.

The New York State Geographical Association (NYSGA) first met in 1935, beginning as an informal organization of interested geographers, educators and students, with open membership. The stated "original purpose of the group was to promote research in the geography of New York State" (from folder 1-11). The NYSGA developed ties with state educational systems as well as the New York State Department of Education. Papers presented at the annual meetings highlighted the organization's scope and purpose, including scholarly and research topics and roundtables on local and state geography, settlement, conservation, soils, land utilization, water supply, weather, climate, economic geography, impressions of teaching through the world and travelogues. The collection reflects the academic interests and the socio-political atmosphere of the 1930s through the 1940s. Notably, no meetings were held during the War Years of 1943-1946.

The New York State Geographical Association remains an active organization; information that post-dates this collection as well as other data on NYSGA can be found at http://www.nysgaonline.org/.

Scope and Contents:
The New York State Geographical Association Collections includes correspondence; meeting minutes, organizational data and papers presented; photographs; and miscellanea from its meetings between 1935 and 1947 as well as historical information and material relating to NYSGA's association with other organizations, such as the New York State Association of Teachers Colleges and Normal School Faculties, Geography Group, and the New York State Department of Education. Notably, several of Dr. Katheryne Whittemore's original papers are included; and additional data, interviews and reminiscences of hers are available in the Archives' administrative and biographical files. All NYSGA collection material dates 1935-1947.
Inventory:

Box 1:


Folder 1-3. New York State Geographical Association. Third Meeting, Syracuse University, 1 May 1937. Minutes; program and
committee report ("The Status of Geography in the Secondary Schools of the State of New York"); papers ("The Preparation of Relative Relief Maps," Dr. Erwin Raisz, abstract only; "Cortland, a Study in Urban Geography," Kirk Stone, cover page only; "The Industrial Geography of Lockport[,] New York," Katheryne Thomas Whittemore, 8 pages; "The Port of Buffalo: Where the Water Routes and Trucking Routes of the Automobile Carriers Meet," M. Melvina Svec, 11 pages; "The History of Maps," Dr. Erwin Raisz, abstract only); register; news items (newspaper clippings and articles, 1937); The Bulletin, volume V, number 3, produced by the Department of Geology and Geography, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, May 1937(?).


Folder 1-5. New York State Geographical Association. Fifth Meeting, State Teachers College at Buffalo, 5 November 1938. Minutes, financial report; program, Buffalo Waterfront map and index; papers ("Changes in Population Distribution in the Canandaigua Lake Region, a Progress Report," Robert B. Simpson, 3 pages plus abstract; "Results of the State Name Test (Given) at Syracuse University," Joseph A. Russell and Eric H. Faigle, 3 pages, with 1939 article "College Geography is Fettered" by same authors (apparently a reworking of the presentation), reprinted from School and Society, 26 August 1939, v. 50, n. 1287, pp. 286-288; "The New York State Museum and Geography," Charles C. Adams,
abstract only; "Present Status of Curriculum Development in the Elementary Schools," Helen Hay Heyl, 2 pages, abstract only; "Human Aspects of the Snow Storm of December 8 and 10, 1937," George Sherrie, 5 pages; "Federal Flood Control Work in Western New York," Harland C. Woods, 9 pages; "Conditions Responsible for the Local Snows at the East End of Lake Erie," Michael J. Cocuzzi, 7 pages); register; news items (newspaper clippings, 1938)

Folder 1-6. New York State Geographical Association. Sixth Meeting, Syracuse University, 23 September 1939. Minutes, list of published books and articles originally presented at previous NY[S]GA meetings; program; papers ("My Impressions of Geography in Germany," Milton George, abstract only; "My Impressions of Geography in New Zealand," A.K. Botts, abstract only; "My Impressions of Geography in British Columbia," Eric Faigle, abstract only; paper on International Geographical Congress in Amsterdam, by Hermine Bauschard, 8 pages; "The Relation of Geography to the Regents Investigation," Dr. Roy Price, notes for roundtable discussion, 3 pages; "The Place of Geography in Secondary and High Schools," Dr. George Cressey, paper for roundtable discussion, 3 pages); register; news items (newspaper clippings and articles, 1939).

Folder 1-8. New York State Geographical Association. Eighth Meeting, Brockport Normal School, 11 October 1941. Minutes, Resolutions Committee report, report on the possible publication of geographical materials by NYSGA, report of the representative on the Board of Directors of the National Council of Geography Teachers; program; papers ("Land Form Regions of New York State," George B. Cressey, 2 pages; "Progress Report on Climactic Regions Study," M. Catherine Roberts, 3 pages; "The Water Supply of Lockport [NY]," Eleanor R. Hughes, 9 pages; "Defense Industries in New York State," Dr. Joseph A. Russell, 10 pages; "The Effects of the Merriman and Neversink Dams on the Land Use and People of the Reservoir Basins," Lewis Robertson, Edward Sackett, Fred Weiler, Robert Long and Walter Bailey, 9 pages (pages 7, 8 missing?)); register; publicity (notices of NYSGA meeting); miscellanea, including photos of NYSGA meeting (1941?), 1941 meeting information; finances and communications, including 8 page bibliography (ca. 1941?), disbursement of registration fees, 1941; "Some Geographic Impressions of Central Labrador," James S. Wishart, 11 pages in bound folder.

Folder 1-9. New York State Geographical Association. Executive Council Meeting, Syracuse, N.Y., 7 November 1942. Program and conference information; minutes of meeting; reports of committees (including representative of NYSGA to the National Council of Geography Teachers, subcommittee on New York State Geographic Research); NYS Education Department Bureau of Curriculum Development, Division of Elementary Education, "Exploring the Environment: Outline of Contents"; register of attendance; workshop and business meeting minutes, 1942.

Folder 1-10. New York State Geographical Association. Ninth Meeting, State Teachers College, Oswego, 7 November 1942. Program and conference information; notice of cancellation in favor of executive meeting at Syracuse (see folder 1-9); miscellaneous clippings, suggested activities, bibliographies, register of attendance, suggested activities for students; previous draft meeting minutes (with handwritten amendments) dating to (ca.) 15 May 1942 and typewritten finalized(? ) minutes. [Note: Given the nature and disorder of this material, it is presumed that the documents date before November 1942.]

Folder 1-12. New York State Association of Teachers Colleges and Normal School Faculties, Geography Group. Chairman's Book. Correspondence, curriculum information, minutes, reports, 1927-1944.