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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

**DICKINSON, WILLIAM EUGENE, 1877 - 1945**

PAPERS, 1898-1945

(bulk dates 1898 – 1900)

Quantity. .5 linear ft.

- ACQUISITION: This collection was donated by John Dickinson, the grandson of William Eugene Dickinson.
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- PROCESSED BY: Anne Hinseth, June, 2000.

## History

William Eugene Dickinson was the son of Henry Alonzo Dickinson and Ellen Gage Dickinson. Henry Alonzo Dickinson was born on August 15, 1854 in Sabula, Iowa. Ellen Gage was born on June 12, 1858 in Ogle County, Illinois. They were married at Grundy County, Iowa on October 14, 1876. They came to Dakota Territory in 1879 and lived in Dakota for the rest of their lives, except for four years during which they lived in Vancouver, Washington. Henry and Ellen had four children, William Eugene, Herbert (also known as "Bert"), Frank and Shirley. Ellen Dickinson died in the influenza epidemic of 1918 and Henry Dickinson died in 1932.

William Eugene Dickinson was born on October 22, 1877 in Montrose, McCook County, Dakota Territory. Dickinson attended Sioux Falls Washington High School for three years before serving in the Spanish – American War as a private in Company B, 1<sup>st</sup> South Dakota Infantry. After the war, Dickinson attended Sioux Falls College and then Medical School at the University of Nebraska.

On September 23, 1885 Dickinson married Pearl Ruby Phillips. The couple's only son, John Henry, was born on June 13, 1904. After the birth of his son, Dickinson set up his medical practice in Canistota, South Dakota. In 1928, Dickinson went to Tulane Medical School in New Orleans to receive psychiatric training. He returned to Canistota in 1930 and continued his practice until poor health forced him to retire. William E. Dickinson died in 1945.

## Scope and Content Note

The William Eugene Dickinson Papers consist of two series: Correspondence and Military Documents.

The **Correspondence** series includes letters primarily to and from William E. Dickinson. The majority of the letters were written during Dickinson's service in Manilla, in the Philippines during the Spanish – American War. Most of the correspondence relates the day-to-day activities of life at home and wishes for Dickinson's well being and safe return. Dickinson's letters home relay some details about life in the military, but provide little information about the war itself. There are several invitations for functions held by family and friends.

The **Military Documents** series contains official papers relating to Dickinson's pension. The sub-series of Correspondence concerns Dickinson's request for a pension and his induction in to the Medical Corps in 1918. In this series, there are several of Dickinson's pension certificates and discharge papers from the US Army and the South Dakota National Guard. Also included is a document in which the President of the United States, Calvin Coolidge, appoints Dickinson a Captain of the Medical Corps; however the document is not signed by the President.

## Additional Resources

Canistota : our heritage and history.  
Canistota, S.D.: Canistota Clipper, 1984.

Montrose memories, 1879-1976.  
Montrose S.D.: Busy Bee Club, 1976.

Box No. Description

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**Box 1**

## CORRESPONDENCE

## Incoming

From Gertrude Eno, Aunt

Dec. 11, 1898

Apr. 12, 1899

May 14, 1899

May 21, 1899

June 18, 1899

From Mrs. W. M. DeWald (Myrtie?), Aunt

Feb. 7, 1899

Apr. 20, 1899

From Dow? Dickinson, Cousin

May 28, 1899

From Ellen Dickinson, Mother

Dec. 4, 1898

Dec. 18, 1898

Dec. 19, 1898

Dec. 27?, 1898

Feb. 12, 1899

Feb. 21, 1899

Apr. 19, 1899

Apr. 23, 1899

May 21, 1899

June 4, 1899

June 16, 1899

June 25, 1899

July 2, 1899

July 9, 1899

July 30, 1899

July 18, 1899

Aug. 7, 1899

Aug. 13, 1899

Aug. 30, 1899

Sept. 17, 1899

Sept. 24, 1899

Sept. 26, 1899

From Ella Irene Dickinson, Aunt (signed Uncle George's Wife)

Feb. 12, 1898

From George W. Dickinson, Uncle

Feb. 12, 1898

From Gertie Dickinson, Cousin

Aug. 7, 1898

From Henry A. Dickinson, Father

Dec. 14, 1898

Jan. 1, 1899

Feb. 12, 1899

Apr. 16, 1899

Apr. 23, 1899

May 21, 1899

June 5, 1899

June 25, 1899

July 4, 1899

Box No. Description

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July 10, 1899  
 July 23, 1899  
 Aug. 20, 1899  
 Sept. 17, 1899  
 From Herbert "Bert" A.. Dickinson, Brother  
 Dec. 11, 1898  
 Jan. 1, 1899  
 Apr. 16, 1899  
 May 14, 1899  
 May 21, 1899  
 May 30, 1899  
 June 4, 1899  
 June 13, 1899  
 June 20, 1899  
 July 2, 1899  
 Aug. 28, 1899  
 Sept. 17, 1899  
 Mar. 9, 1901  
 From William Dickinson, Grandfather  
 June 25, 1899  
 From Ella  
 Jan. 1, 1899  
 June 19, ?  
 From Agnes Larson  
 Apr. 19, 1899  
 From Matilda Miller  
 May 11, 1899  
 From Mimie, Aunt  
 May 14, ?  
 From Claude Moulton  
 May 7, 1899  
 From Sherm, Uncle  
 Feb. 14, 1899  
 June 25, 1899  
 From Annie Sperling, Aunt  
 July 3, 1899  
 From Clair Van Woert, Cousin  
 Apr. 17, 1899  
 From Lissie (Melissa) Van Woert, Aunt  
 Apr. 17, 1899  
 June 7, 1899  
 From Unsigned  
 Dec. 27, 1898  
 Dec. 30, 1898  
 Feb. 18, 1899

Outgoing

To Aunt and Uncle  
 Jan 1, 1898  
 To Brother  
 July 1, 1898  
 To Parents  
 Dec. 19, 1898

Box No. Description

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Invitations

From Mr. And Mrs. John Dickinson  
May 29, 1893  
Sept. 1901  
From Mrs. Harvey and Miss Muller?  
Feb. 23, 1900

MILITARY DOCUMENTS (1 folder)

Correspondence

From United States Government  
Oct. 4, 1899  
Nov. 23, 1905  
Oct. 29, 1918  
Nov. 8, 1918  
Aug. 23, 1918  
Nov. 2, 1918  
Apr. 1, 1919  
June 5, 1920  
Aug. 9, 1921  
June 4, 1926  
Sept. 2, 1930  
July 25, 1934  
Sept. 4, 1941  
n.d. (2 items)

Certificates

Power of Attorney May 2, 1940  
Pension Slip n.d.  
Discharge Papers from US Army Oct. 5, 1899  
Discharge Papers from South Dakota National Guard Dec. 7, 1899  
Pension Certificate  
Oct. 9, 1906  
Apr. 17, 1925  
Nov. 14, 1928  
Claim for Pension May 1, 1926  
Appointment Papers from the President of the United States Apr. 22,  
1929