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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

EPSTEIN, EPHRAIM M.

PAPERS, 1882-1883
(bulk dates, 1882-1883)
Quantity .5 linear ft.

ACCESS: This collection is open for research without restriction.

PRINTED MATERIAL: Printed materials are found in Box 1.

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History

The University of Dakota, the predecessor to the University of South Dakota, began its existence as an institution of higher education in 1882. Ephraim Menahem Epstein was the first leader of the university. He was born on March 17, 1829. Epstein, a Russian Jew who converted to Christianity, graduated from Andover Theological Seminary in Massachusetts and the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City. He was also fluent in several languages. He practiced medicine in Leavenworth, Kansas and in Cincinnati, Ohio and taught at Heidelberg College for a short time. Epstein, at the time of his appointment, was a Baptist minister, first preaching in Yankton until moving to Vermillion. The new president kept very busy at his duties; he conducted most of the classes, kept university records, and sold textbooks to the 69 students enrolled at the time. Epstein was an excellent teacher who enjoyed inspiring young minds, but held controversial religious views. Eventually, Epstein was removed as president due to political motives by certain members of the Regents of Education when the territory assumed control of the university in 1883. There was also speculation that Dr. Epstein had amassed a significant debt for contracting a house in Vermillion. He moved to Chicago, continued to practice medicine, and became an editor/contributor for the *American Journal of Clinical Medicine* until his death in 1913 at the age of 84.

Scope and Content Note

The Ephraim M. Epstein Collection is composed of two series: **Correspondence and Printed Materials**. Unfortunately, the records for the Epstein administration, particularly for correspondence, are extremely limited in scope due to the 1893 fire of University Hall (Old Main) which destroyed many of the records.

The **Correspondence** series contains letters written by individuals requesting a catalog of courses or seeking admission into the university. A majority of the correspondence relates to the incorporation of the "University of Dakota" by the Board of Regents. General correspondence is contained in one folder entitled, "A-Z." Incoming and outgoing correspondence for a person or organization with more than 2 letters are contained in one folder; these are listed directly after "General" files.

The **Printed Materials** series includes photocopies of articles written by Dr. Epstein or information pertaining to his career after leaving the university.

Additional Resources

Cummins, Cedric. *The University of South Dakota, 1862-1966*. Vermillion: University of South Dakota Press, 1975.

Epstein, Ephraim M. *The Construction of the Tabernacle*. Chicago: The Open Court Pub. Co., 1911.

Epstein, Ephraim M. *The Mosaic Names of God and What they Denote*. Chicago: The Open Court Pub. Co., 1907.

Rosenstein, Dr. *The Lurie Legacy: The House of Davidic Royal Descent*. New Jersey: Avotaynu, 2004.

Waugh, William F., W. C. Abbott, and Ephraim M. Epstein. *A Textbook of Alkaloidal Therapeutics: Being a Condensed Resume of all Available Literature on the Subject of the Active Principles Added to the Personal Experience of the Authors*. Chicago: Clinic Publishing Co., 1907.

Subjects

Epstein, Ephraim, 1883-1884--Archives th
University of South Dakota – History—19th century--Sources
College presidents—South Dakota—Vermillion--Archives

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
Box 1	
	CORRESPONDENCE
	General "A-Z" (1 folder)
	Beadle, W. H. H., (Member of Board of Regents)
	1882, July 8
	Lawrence, B. M.
	1883, Jan. 30
	Sioux Falls Water Power Company
	1882, July 31
	Board of Regents
	1883, April 14
	1883, April 14
	1883, April 16
	PRINTED MATERIALS (1 folder)
	Epstein, Ephraim M. "Why do I Live so Long?" Chicago: Clinic Publishing Co., 1908, reprint from <i>The American Journal of Clinical Medicine</i> (April/May 1908)
	"Dr. Ephraim M. Epstein, First Head of the University," <i>South Dakota Alumni Quarterly</i> 7(October 1911) 63-75.
	Epstein, Ephraim M. "Sven Von Hedin and the Bible," <i>The American Journal of Clinical Medicine</i> . (March 1913) 250-256.
	"Dr. Ephraim M. Epstein," <i>South Dakota Alumni Quarterly</i> 11 (January 1916) 95-101.
	"A Memento of Dr. Ephraim M. Epstein: Document Found in Chimney Wall of the House He Built in 1884," <i>South Dakota Alumnus</i> (May 1931) 48-49.
	Rosenstien, Dr. Neil. <i>The Lurie Legacy: The House of Davidic Royal Descent</i> . Preface (xv-xvii) and Chapter 7 pages 255-266.