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# GEN MS 21 Edith Meserve Rice Papers Finding Aid

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**EDITH MESERVE RICE PAPERS  
GEN MS 21**

**Total Boxes: 1  
Linear Feet: 0.5**

**By  
Daniel Draper**

**Portland, Maine  
July 2007**

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## **Administrative Information**

Provenance: Donated to Special Collections in 2004.

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Restrictions on access: None

## **Biographical Note**

Edith Luella Meserve was born on September 29, 1923, the daughter of Henry Meserve and Pearl Lombard. Since her father had deserted her mother, her mother worked for a farmer, Harry Wadsworth, in South Hiram near Cornish. She married Wadsworth while Edith was in elementary school and subsequently had 2 sons and another daughter from this marriage.

During Edith's years as a student (1942-1946) at Gorham Normal School, the president, Dr. Francis L. Bailey, was her mentor and advisor. While in school she worked as a waitress at the College. As a student she was chosen as one of 2 representatives from Gorham State Teachers College to attend the Student Teachers Convention in New York. In these war years there were the standard blackout curtains and the regular faculty nightly checks of the campus. The male students had departed en masse for military service leaving only a few 4F male students as well as the young ladies. Some of these would go to local towns to fill in for the teacher shortages.

Graduating in a class of 33 members in 1946, Edith married Richard N. Rice of South Portland that same year. Of that marriage there were 4 children: Sally Ann Rice Newell, Susan Winifred Rice Brown, Shirley Marian Rice and Richard Nash Rice. Eventually, Edith became an elementary school teacher in Orono, Maine.

Over the years Edith Rice was faithful to her alma mater, serving in various ways. In 1944 she had served on the decoration committee for the Summer School Banquet. By 1978 she was a member of the executive board of the Alumni Association. From 1980 through 1989 she was the executive secretary of the Alumni Association and until at least 1998 she was a member of the executive board.

## Description of the Papers

The Edith Meserve Rice Papers consists of alumni news and songs of Gorham Normal School and the State of Maine, as well as information about Gorham State Teachers College and the University of Southern Maine.

| Box | Folder | Description  | Date          |
|-----|--------|--|---------------|
| 1   | 1      | Gorham Alumni Association Bulletins  | 1927-2002     |
|     | 2      | Gorham State Teachers College Alumni News  | 1956-1958     |
|     | 3      | Songs of Gorham Normal School – M. E. Andrews  | 1928, 1938    |
|     | 4      | State of Maine Song – R. V. Snow<br>Classroom Teachers' Song – Glassford<br>Campus Song<br>Song of Friendship – E. Lowell<br>Cheer on Cheer<br>Class Ode, 1952 | 1932/1952     |
|     | 5      | Information about Gorham State College   | 1878-1991     |
|     | 6      | Information about University of Southern Maine   | 1978-1999     |
|     | 7      | Photo album: contains student photos, a program for the 1946 Gorham State Teachers College graduation exercises and the Commencement Ball                      | 1946, undated |
|     | 8      | Miscellaneous  | undated       |