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**ESTHER WOOD PAPERS  
GEN MS 23**

**Total Boxes: 3  
Linear Feet: 1.25**

**By  
Daniel Draper  
And  
Megan Turner**

**Portland, Maine  
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## **Administrative Information**

Provenance: Donated to Special Collections in the years between 2006 and 2016.

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Cite as: Esther Wood Papers, Special Collections, University of Southern Maine Libraries.

Restrictions on access: None

## **Biographical Note**

Esther Elizabeth Wood was a native of Maine and spent her childhood at Friend's Corner, a rural region in the eastern part of the State. It was named for her paternal great-grandfather who settled there in the 1820's. By 1900 there were only 6 families in the neighborhood and only 7 children attending the schoolhouse on the hilltop. Four of Esther's cousins, who were her contemporaries, lived in the region. Her parents often talked about her grandparents, great-grandparents and great uncles, one of whom died in China and one in the Civil War. Their houses and fields became home to her family. Both her father and her mother taught school and Esther could not remember when she did not know about teachers and teaching. She went to sleep thinking about the midnight ride of Paul Revere and was called to dinner from outdoor play by her mother's school bell. In 1976 Esther wrote an interesting account of her reminiscences, Country Fare, with family recipes from her Maine childhood.

She received an A.B. degree from Colby College and an A.M. degree from Radcliffe College and was a professor of Social Sciences and History at Gorham State Teachers College from 1930 to 1972. During that time she taught Civics, Current History, Greek and Roman History and U.S. History, and also served as a dean of women.

Esther was a very popular teacher and was best remembered for her enjoyable classes. The year after her retirement, "The Towers" were dedicated at Gorham State Teachers College, named for Esther and for Edna F. Dickey, another History teacher. These unique twin structures are each round in contour and 8 stories high. They were constructed to serve as dormitories.

As an author, Esther wrote for Maine Life and for the Ellsworth American. She was very well known and liked by all of her numerous acquaintances.

## **Description of the Papers**

The Esther Wood Papers are contained within a series of 44 folders divided into three separate boxes. They consist of lecture notes, written by Esther Wood, on the history of New England from the 16<sup>th</sup> century through the Revolutionary War and the Civil War, to American diplomacy in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Box	Folder	Description	Date
1	1	Early history in America	undated
1	2	Puritans and Quakers	undated
1	3	Wars between the French and the English	undated
1	4	Colonial cities and their influence	undated
1	5	Colonial Education	undated
1	6	Colonial History	undated
1	7-9	French and Indian Wars	undated
1	10-11	Social History from 1789 to 1825	undated
1	12	Social History from 1828 to 1865	undated
1	13-15	Social History from 1865 and on	undated
1	16-17	Social History of New England	undated
1	18	Colonial professions	undated
1	19	Colonial settlers	undated
1	20	Differences between the colonists and the English	undated
1	21	Colonial Virginia	undated
1	22	Colonial Georgia	undated
1	23	Great literary writers	undated
2	24	Revolutionary War period	undated
2	25	War as a factor in the making of colonial America	undated
2	26	Geography of Maine	undated
2	27	U.S. Constitution	undated
2	28	Maine before statehood	undated
2	29	Origin of the State of Maine	undated
2	30-31	Maine Statehood	undated

2	32	Pre – Civil War Years	undated
2	33	Civil War Years	undated
2	34-35	Expansion, Trade, and Immigration	undated
2	36-38	Topics in Diplomatic History	undated
3	39-40	Tyler and Webster to Spanish–American War	undated
3	41-42	Spanish – American War to F.D.R.	undated
3	43-44	F.D.R. and on	undated