

**Archive  
Lakeshore Museum Center  
Ruth Thompson Collection**

**Collection:** Ruth Thompson Collection

**Object ID Numbers:** 2011.035.001

**Location:** LMC Archive, room 204, shelf P 1

**Dates:** 1887-1999

**Quantity:** 1 document box, 1 scrapbook box, 1 oversize folder (2 cubic feet)

**Restrictions:** Three of the photographs in this collection have copyright restrictions and cannot be reproduced. They are clearly marked in their respective folder.

**Abstract:** This collection of archival materials includes letters, awards, certificates, notebooks, speeches, legislative acts, scrapbooks, nominations, and photographs that provide valuable information about the life and career of Judge Ruth Thompson. Born in 1887 in Whitehall, Ruth Thompson began her distinguished career as the first woman to serve as a Muskegon County Probate Judge; she later became Muskegon County's first female State Representative, as well as a member of the U.S. Congress, representing the 9th District of Michigan. This collection gives researchers a valuable insight into Ruth's experiences and perceptions, the issues and problems she encountered over her lifetime, the development of her career, and the controversies she faced while serving in Congress. The majority of the materials in this collection are from when Judge Thompson traveled abroad during World War II to her last year as a congresswoman in 1956.

**Historical Information:** Ruth Isabelle Thompson was born in Whitehall on September 15, 1887 to impoverished Scandinavian immigrants Bertha and Tom Thompson. Her father was a sailor for a lumbering company. An only child, Ruth was born into a household of Swedish speaking parents and did not learn the English language until she started kindergarten. After graduating from the local public high school in Whitehall, Ruth attended Muskegon Business College and stayed with a local family where she worked for room and board. In 1905, Ruth first entered the court house to do her very first task as a typist: typing up a copy of Mr. Charles Hackley's will for all of the beneficiaries listed in the document.

Her first full time job was as a secretary to an attorney and she also worked as a typist for the probate court. Proving that she was skilled and capable, she got a job as the clerk and probate registrar for the probate court. She also worked as a stenographer and a court reporter. Determined to better herself and her career, Ruth studied law in the office of Robert E. Bunker, a retired professor of law at University of Michigan, and Alexis Rogoski a practicing attorney in the city of Muskegon. She was admitted to the state bar in April 1926 and was the only female member of the Muskegon County's Bar Association. Confident in her abilities, she ran against experienced lawyers for a vacant probate judge seat and won the election.

Ruth worked as a judge from 1925 to 1937 and served three complete terms. She was well known for her handling of juvenile delinquency cases and was recognized as one of the

leading authorities of the country on juvenile cases. During her 12 years as probate judge, only one decision of the court has been reversed in the circuit court, while not a single reversal has been recorded in the state supreme court.

Under Ruth's direction money from the Children's Fund of Michigan, founded by the Senator James Couzens, was spent assisting troubled children in rehabilitating themselves and to help keep them out of institutions. Ruth also worked to have those funds establish a boarding house project in Muskegon County. The annual expenditures for this fund was about \$5,000 and about 15 to 20 children were placed in homes yearly through this fund. Ruth was quoted as saying to juvenile delinquents "Your environment and associations are bad. I'm going to send you away, but not to the sort of place you think. You are going to a nice home where you will be understood, where you will receive plenty to eat. You will have a new father and mother who will respect and perhaps love you if you do your part." During the Great Depression she took a \$1,000 annual pay cut, with the stipulation that the county spend the money for eye, ear, nose, and throat treatment of underprivileged children.

According to Ruth, "Much new legislature affecting the Office was enacted during those years (1920s-1930s). The duties of the court at that time included primarily the Administration of Estates, guardianship cases, minors, and the mentally incompetent. Subsequently, the duties of the Office included Commitment of the Insane, the Feeble-minded, and the Epileptics. During the lean "Thirties" we handed out Mother's Pensions to widows and deserted wives. The Blind and the Deaf were committed to their respective Institutions, and the seriously ill were committed to the University Hospital of Michigan. Surplus foods were piled high in offices and corridors, some were grateful for their quotas, others rejected them. Beggars were daily callers, and if they were sober they were sent to a generous restaurant which dispensed coffee and sandwiches. If they were under the influence of liquor, they were sent on their way to fend for themselves as best they could. Children with defective eyes and teeth were cared gratis on my recommendation. Two dentists and one eye doctor never refused their free services. 'But all this and more too shall pass away' and it did over a period of time."

In 1930, Ruth's record in the field of child welfare received national recognition when former President Herbert Hoover selected her as a delegate to the national child welfare conference at Washington. In 1935, she was also recognized when her fellow workers elected her president of the state association of probate judges. She had previously served in other official capacities for said organization. As president, Ruth brought about an amicable agreement among the state medical society, state hospital association, and the judges association for the care of afflicted children and adults. After serving as a Muskegon County probate judge for three terms, Ruth became Muskegon County's first female State Representative, holding the position from 1938 to 1941.

During World War II she worked in the legal section of the Social Security Administration and later in the Labor Department. Beginning in 1940, Ruth was the chief of the employee relations section of a civilian personnel branch in the office of the Adjutant General in the War Department for The Pentagon. She was the administrator of procedures through which Army Service Forces learned about recreational activities, vocational events, special events, as well as general and college educational opportunities in Washington. She focused on helping about 5,200 employees, mostly women, adjust to life in Washington and to their jobs.

On August 15, 1945, Ruth boarded the *Queen Mary* for Europe where she spent a year on an assignment. She first stopped in Paris, France, and then went to Frankfurt, Germany where she was stationed at the Headquarters Command of U.S. occupation forces. She was given a

rank equivalent to captain, wore a uniform, and lived in the officer's quarter. Ruth was later sent to Copenhagen, Denmark, for rehabilitation work for the United States Government where she also supervised civilian personnel. One of Ruth's tasks was to recruit nationals for the American zone in Germany. Ruth also acted as an Army attorney while in Germany. When she returned to the United States in the late 1940s, she lived in Fruitport and practiced law.

Ruth Thompson, a Republican, became Michigan's first woman in Congress when voters elected her to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1950. She decided to run after her good friend Albert J. Engel resigned his seat so that he could run for governor. During her campaign, Ruth focused on reaching out to people whom she had helped as a judge. According to Ruth "I started out in my car and stopped all over, ringing doorbells, visiting business places, talking with people on the streets, and addressing countless gatherings...Many of those whom I met were people I had known when I was a probate judge. I handled their estates, helped them when they wanted to adopt children, or placed young wards of the court in their homes for boarding."

Ruth defeated two experienced political veterans in the primary and beat her well known Democratic opponent Noel Fox by 5,000 votes. On January 3, 1951, Ruth took the oath of office as a member of the U.S. Congress, representing the 9th District of Michigan. Upon taking Congressional office, she received the first House Judiciary Committee appointment granted to a woman. She also served on the subcommittees for Bankruptcy and Immigration and Naturalization. While in Congress, she lived at the Plaza Hotel which was three blocks from the House office building.

In the early 1950s, while serving on the House Subcommittee on Immigration and Naturalization, Ruth focused on preventing Communist immigrants from entering the country. As part of the committee, she examined border patrol problems along the Canadian border. Ruth also opposed the majority of Harry S. Truman administration's domestic program and voted to cut housing construction provided for under the Public Housing Administration. She also disagreed with President Truman's foreign policy and joined conservative Republicans in their efforts to remove Secretary of State Dean G. Acheson. Ruth occasionally voted against military and economic assistance to Western Europe.

During that same time, Judge Thompson favored changing the current methods of electing United States presidents, and joined other Republican Congresswomen in an effort to publicize how inflation limited the ability of housewives to buy groceries for their families. She co-sponsored a woman's rights bill that would guarantee women all the rights they have won and eliminate discriminations that still remained in the 1950s. She co-sponsored the bill with Congresswoman Katherine St. George.

In 1953, Ruth recommended the creation of the Department of Peace, which she proposed would become a part of the presidential Cabinet. According to her, "All the guns, all the tanks, and all the bombs we are building during these hectic times are not going to save us from our enemies at home or abroad." In addition, Ruth was a major player in shaping the Capitol Hill institution by introducing a bill to establish a formal academy for House and Senate Pages which would have provided a central dormitory and adult supervision.

The Pages were a group of about 75 blue-coated teenage boys who ran errands for Members in the chambers and the congressional offices, and came to Washington on patronage appointments from around the country. The Pages took classes at the Library of Congress in addition to their other duties, and were responsible for securing their own room and board. Congresswoman Thompson believed that the boys needed structure and that "a boy 15 years old isn't old enough to choose his own home and determine his own hours." She advocated that

these boys needed room and board provided to ensure that they received the most beneficial care possible in their role as Pages. The reform that Ruth proposed, however, was not enacted for another 30 years.

Although Congresswoman Thompson delivered speeches as part of her duties in Congress, she preferred committee work and spent little time on the House Floor. When she did appear on the Floor, she generally offered her succinct support for measures introduced by the Judiciary Committee. She supported a "submerged lands" bill that sought to retain state control from the federal government over coastal waters with oil and mineral deposits. Ruth argued that if the states lost revenue from the development of these deposits, a principal revenue source for educational programs would decline. Around the same time, Ruth also supported a measure by colleague Marguerite Stitt Church of Illinois seeking to restrict the sale of out-of-state "bootleg" fireworks in jurisdictions in which they were illegal.

In 1954, Representative Thompson faced controversy in her role as Congresswoman over the location of the Northern Michigan jet air base. The Air Force originally informed Ruth that the fighter-interceptor base would be built in her district. There were objections to a Grand Traverse County site and later a Benzie County site, because they were too close to the National Music Camp. In fact, the House armed services committee approved a report that the new installation would have to be 15 miles away from the music camp. A group from Cadillac in Wexford County made its bid for the base. Ruth entered the controversy at this point, letting it be known that she had been offered a campaign contribution of \$1,000 if she would let the jet air base go to Cadillac. Although Ruth did not divulge the identity of the individual, she said that the person was on the floor of the House and that it was no one from Cadillac. After announcing the bribe, the Wexford committee demanded an explanation and that she make a formal apology for casting aspersions on the people from Wexford County. She refused to apologize.

The Air Force let the controversy ride for several months but gave Ruth repeated assurances that it would name Benzie County, within her district, as the location for the base. Then suddenly they announced that the jet air base would go to Cadillac. Fully aware of the political danger, the congresswoman made a decision, in which she saw as the only right decision to make, to fight the Cadillac selection. She shared her concerns with Carl Vinson of Georgia, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. According to Ruth, the House appropriations committee turned down the motion to make Cadillac the location of the base. Members of a subcommittee looked up Air Force testimony that the Cadillac site was entirely unsatisfactory, and a letter from Chairman Clarence Cannon, forbade use of appropriated funds anywhere except in Benzie County. The armed services committee ban on Benzie, however, remained in effect. It became a power struggle between the two House committees, with Ruth, a member or neither, in the middle.

The appropriations committee required that the Air Force present a study in mid 1955 showing its rating of all the bases. Manistee and Kalkaska had been actively bidding during this time. From the Air Force viewpoint, Kalkaska was the best site. Chairman of the Senate and House committees approved Kalkaska. Representative Thompson reluctantly accepted the decision. Summer places near Kalkaska refused to accept the decision and using out-of-state influence, they revived the controversy. At the same time, the Manistee group pressed its bid as an alternative site. Due to the situation, Ruth appeared before the committees and recalled the promise that had been made to her district and emphasize the advantages of Manistee. After what seemed to be endless discussion and insurmountable odds, Manistee won the designation.

In August of 1955, people who were unhappy over the controversy tried to recall Ruth in spite of the contention that it cannot be done under the US Constitution. The recall movement was started Douglas Fairbanks, Wexford County Democratic chairmen, and Emil Meyer, Cadillac city clerk. Both men listed 5 charges for why Thompson should be recalled:

1)"Representative Thompson's utter disregard for the safety of the nation in causing 18 months of delay in construction of the base, 2) Refusal to state her objections to location of the base at Cadillac, 3) Her refusal to arrange a meeting of the Cadillac jet base committee with the House Appropriations Committee, 4) Her pretense of knowing more about air base requirements than did the Air Force experts themselves, and 5) Her avowed neutral stand during the controversy, when at the same time she was opposing the Cadillac site due to a personal feud with Air Secretary Talbott." When Lewis Dischler, congressional parliamentarian, informed Fairbanks that according to the constitution only constituents could recall congressmen, the recall was dropped.

After some serious thought, Ruth decided to run for re-election for a fourth term but made few appearances during the campaign. Thompson, who was 70 years old, lost her primary bid for a fourth term in 1956 and returned to her home in Whitehall.

Aside from being a Congresswoman and a Probate Judge, Ruth was also active in many different venues. She organized the Quadrangle Club in Muskegon and was its first president. She was one of the original trustees of the Muskegon County Tuberculosis hospital. Ruth was also a president of the YWCA, chaired the Michigan Women's Prison Commission, was a member of the Governor Wilber Bricker's advisory council to the state welfare commission, was on the Board of Michigan Society for Mental Hygiene, and was a member of the Hoover White House Conference on Child and Health Protection, and the National Republican Program Committee.

Ruth later moved from Whitehall to Allegan County and lived at the Plainwell Sanitarium in 1965 and Ruth's personal companion, Millie Mercer, cared for the Judge until her death on April 8, 1970. In 1998, twenty-eight years after her death, Ruth was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. The following is biographical information included on the Hall of Fame nomination form: "Ruth Thompson was an ardent believer in the rights of the individual, and devoted her life in public service to securing those rights from an increasingly pervasive bureaucracy. While in Congress, she was a vocal opponent of the United States' role in the Korean Conflict and of government price supports, which she feared would lead to runaway inflation. She worked to combat higher personal and corporate taxes as well as a plan to greatly expand the Selective Service draft of the nation's young men."

**Scope and Contents:** This collection is arranged into the following 20 series: correspondence, refugee relief and immigration, speeches, jet air base, public relations, military academy nominations, Michigan women's hall of fame, letterhead and stationary, autobiographical materials, informational materials, materials for distribution, awards and certificates, guest book, scrapbooks, photographs, postcards, newspaper clippings, publications, notes, and miscellaneous.

The Correspondence series contains: the sub-series official correspondence, which includes correspondence sent and received during Ruth's career when she was a Judge and Congresswoman, regarding issues of state during WWII, and while Ruth was in Frankfurt, Germany, Ruth's official and professional experiences while she was in Congress, elections, the

appointment of postmasters in Muskegon County and the 9th District, carrier position vacancy in Frankfurt, condolences, membership invitation to the National Council of the Atlantic Union, issues regarding navigational improvements of the harbors of Lake Michigan, immigration visas and other related issues, letter from Ruth regarding elections for state posts in the Judiciary, and a letter with a copy of General Twining's speech regarding employment of the physically handicapped; the sub-series visitation correspondence includes letters regarding the arrangement and scheduling of tours of the White House and of Ruth's office and other official buildings in Washington D.C., as well as letters to and from Ruth regarding trip details and thanking Ruth for the visitation; the sub-series personal correspondence includes letters about personal experiences, the health issues of a friend, letters to and from Ruth about a family matters and children, taxes, congratulatory letters, letters regarding Ruth's trip to Jordan, cookbooks, prayer pamphlets, sewing machines, Ruth's experiences in Washington, and holiday and thank you cards.

The Refugee Relief and Immigration series includes: information about the Refugee Act of 1953, a state-by-state list of refugees' destinations and sponsor's forms, information regarding the adoption of orphans that corresponds to the Refugee Relief Act, and a copy of Eisenhower's address to Congress regarding immigration and the policies of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952.

The Speeches series contains: formal speeches Ruth addressed to Congress and other official settings, a speech given to the national chapter of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) in Washington during a seminar in public affairs, a speech on the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, and a Lincoln Day speech given before the Republican Congressional Committee.

The Jet Air Base series includes: correspondence regarding the Jet Air Base controversy, letters to and from Ruth as well as the Air Force, Mr. Gamanche, and Senator Potter, Ruth's official statement given before the Senate Armed Services Committee that provides details about the conflict, letter from Michigan Representative Clare Hoffman in Congressional Record, Ruth's response to letters of inquiry, and a letter to the Wexford County Jet Air Base Committee.

The Public Relations series contains: articles written by Ruth for the news column "Washington Highlights," an article written for the National Federation of Republican Women in Washington newsletter, correspondence regarding article for the "Reporter for A Day" section, an article for the *Michigan Republican*, and materials for a radio show appearance for the Paul Bunyan Network.

The Military Academy Nominations series includes: correspondence, nomination forms, application forms, letters of recognition, examination information, and thank you letters sent to and from Ruth regarding the applications from young men seeking an appointment at a military academy that Ruth reviewed and recommended for the Navy and the Air Force. This series includes applications received from James Joseph Neal, Gary Van Singel, Douglass Roger Picardat, Peter Roder from Muskegon Heights (admitted to the Naval Academy Annapolis), Phillip Clohset Jr., Oren RuteMiller Jr. from Muskegon, and Charles Fordham from Muskegon (admitted to the Naval Academy Annapolis).

The Michigan Women's Hall of Fame series contains: correspondence, application forms, letters of support with nomination forms to add Ruth Thompson to the Hall of Fame, photocopies of images sent with the nomination forms, biographical information, program details of the induction ceremony, resolution honoring Ruth for being inducted into the Hall of Fame (1/12/1999), and invitations.

The Letterhead and Stationary series includes: letterhead and stationary with Ruth's name and title while she was a Representative in Congress and a member of the Judiciary Committee, and includes several different formats and sizes that Ruth and her assistant used for correspondence or notes.

The Autobiographical Materials series includes: yellow notebook paper with Ruth's handwritten unfinished autobiography as well as relevant notes. There is a typed version of the autobiography with a letter on the provenance.

The Informational Materials contains: information given to or collected by Ruth to prepare her for her official duties and other projects and includes a list of Republican members of the House of Representatives 1951, a brief overview of American Indians by the Library of Congress, a notebook of information with a brief overview of selected countries, papers with a brief overview of Michigan counties with information on votes by county, voter statistics, and a map of the United States from 1947, a notebook organized by Michigan counties arranged alphabetically with contact information, and a list of county officers and population information.

The Materials for Distribution series includes: materials that Congressman Ruth Thompson put together and distributed to the general public, such as a booklet on the Capitol and a history of the United States flag.

The Awards and Certificates series contains: awards and certificates given to Ruth during her lifetime such as, a certificate for an honorary membership to the Quadrangle Club, a membership to the Kappa Beta Pi Legal Sorority, a Ruth Houston Whipple award presented to Ruth by the Michigan Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs 1955, a certificate of admission as an attorney at law of Michigan by the clerk of the circuit court of Muskegon in 1926, a certificate of admission as an attorney at law by the Supreme Court of Michigan 1960, and a certificate of election to the Representatives in Congress, 9th District 1952-1955, a plaque with the Optimist's creed and Ruth's name engraved on a tag at the bottom.

The Guestbook series contains: a guestbook filled with dates, names, and addresses that belonged most likely to guests who visited the area when Ruth was in Washington, D.C. and in Congress. The dates cover the timeframe when Ruth was working for the government and she scheduled visitations when she was in Congress.

The Newspaper Clippings series includes: copies of newspaper articles with biographical information, a copy of Ruth's article in "Reporter for a Day" section of a Washington newspaper, copies of articles about the Jet Air Base, clippings of daily prayers and who led the prayers for the opening of the Senate, and poems clipped from various newspapers.

The Publications series contains: materials collected and/or read by Ruth and includes religious materials, magazines such as *Modern Maturity*, and the *Osteopathic Bulletin*, and other magazines, railroad timetables, the annual report from the Evangelical Covenant Church from Whitehall, and a newsletter from the Quadrangle Club. The selection of materials in this series provides a glimpse of Ruth's interests and focus after her life in Congress.

The Notes series includes: Ruth's notes about people, places, trip details, notes that were written on two pages from a 1870s book, most likely a family bible, and notes about prayers and Ruth's earlier life regarding the care of the needy.

The Miscellaneous series contains: various materials that did not fit into other series such as a invitation to the inauguration of President Eisenhower, an invitation to a reception for Vice President Nixon, a copy of the President's Prayer, a poem titled "Sometime" typed on Ruth's letterhead, receipts, a luggage tag, a poem titled "For Mother's to Think About," Ruth's diploma cover, notes and a resolution regarding the prayer and meditation room at Congress, and biographical information that was adhered to tag board.

The Scrapbooks series contains: one large brown scrapbook with photographs of Ruth's childhood home and family, newspaper articles about Ruth's career, letters, fliers, programs, and loose photographs that fell off of pages at the front; the blue scrapbook is a spiral bound notebook with bound pages with plastic covers and includes postcards from Denmark, Germany, and Norway, a baggage tag and photographs from the ship *Queen Anne*, and photographs of Ruth and other officials from Ruth's trip to Israel. Photographs from both scrapbooks have fallen off of the pages. There is a folder with the photographs with loose photographs that could not be decisively placed with either scrapbook.

The Photograph series includes: sub-series World War II Era contains photographs of Ruth abroad in Europe with residential scenes, photos with Red Cross staff members, and other images taken while Ruth was abroad; the sub-series Israel Trip includes photographs of Ruth with dignitaries at meetings, dinners, tours of places in Israel, and other general scenes, and all of the images have "State of Israel Government Press Division" stamped on the back; the Colleagues sub-series includes images of other Congress members, members of the Senate, or other friends and colleagues of Ruth, many of the images are professional portraits and include Eva Bowring, Al Bush, Ed Sittler Jr., Brady Geutry, Victor A Knox, and Gerald Ford; the Portraits sub-series contains several different portraits of Ruth and snapshots and images where Ruth is solitary, including a baby photograph of Ruth; sub-series Events Black Notebook are photographs of Ruth with other groups in official and relaxed settings, and all of the photographs came out of the same black notebook; sub-series Events includes photographs of Ruth in formal meetings, Ruth in official settings, images of Ruth in groups, on tours, Ruth with Mrs. Newhaus from the DAR, and Ruth standing in a group next to President Eisenhower; sub-series Snapshots contains photographs of Ruth in different places, both formal and informal, photographs taken during Ruth's campaign for probate judge with children wearing Ruth's campaign signs, Ruth with babies and other children, and other relaxed scenes; sub-series loose photographs includes photos and postcards that are most likely from a scrapbook and includes snapshots of Ruth in general scenes and on the *Queen Mary*; sub-series Oversize Photographs includes the following



images: women in Congress, group photograph taken in 1958; House Judiciary Committee official Navy photograph taken March 5, 1954; Social Security Board 104th Training Class, December 13, 1941; two copies of Ruth seated at her desk in Washington D.C.; the Judiciary Committee of Congress official Navy photograph taken June 29, 1956; a charcoal portrait of Ruth as a baby and a portrait of a woman who is most likely Ruth's mother; a portrait of Ruth; and a poster with a portrait of Ruth and biographical information and the statement "someday, somewhere I shall see what my life has come to mean to those who have watched me live."

The Postcards series contains: postcards collected by Ruth or sent to Ruth during her lifetime. Many of postcards were collected by Ruth during her trip to Europe during and after World War II. Some of the postcards have correspondence on the back and may have been in one of the scrapbooks.

**Arrangement:** This collection of papers and other archival materials was saved from the dumpster by the donor. The collection arrived in two different sections donated several months apart. A note found in the collection states that some materials from this collection were offered and accepted by the Bentley Historical Library (BHL) in 1979. BHL currently has one scrapbook that belonged to Ruth. It is unknown if BHL discarded any materials that were considered and then declined. Ruth Thompson died without any heirs and after her long time caretaker passed away, the collection was split up, discarded or donated, and thus it is impossible to determine original order. The majority of the collection was haphazardly placed into two cardboard boxes. The loose pages have been arranged into a logical corresponding series, and are currently organized in a method believed to provide easiest access for researchers and staff.

This collection is composed largely of paper materials in different formats. The bulk of the collection consists of loose papers, but also contains bound three ring binders and publications, photographs in different formats, wood and metal plaques, and scrapbooks with mixed materials.

This collection is arranged into 20 series placed by series and size into one white document box, one scrapbook box, and one oversize folder.

Note on autobiographical materials: There is a copy of a typed version that was completed by a third party and was not donated with this collection. Ruth's caretaker found the yellow notebook pages with Ruth's handwriting, included in this collection, and after Ruth's death her caretaker asked the third party to type up the unfinished manuscript in 1986. The typed version was found in a vertical file in the archive with a letter that gives details on the provenance of the autobiography. The typed version was placed in this collection as it was part of the original collection according to the letter, and it provides valuable insight to the yellow handwritten pages.

Numerous photographs were loose in the box and it is difficult to ascertain if they came from the two scrapbooks or were simply loose in the box. Some of the photographs are placed at the front of the scrapbooks after it was determined that they most likely belonged with the scrapbook. Several of the awards, certificates, and large photographs were taken out of their acidic frames for preservation purposes, and as the frames had no historical or intrinsic value they were discarded. The oversized certificates and photographs were placed in an oversized folder and

vary in size. Photographs that were placed in plastic sleeves inside a black notebook were removed from those enclosures and placed together in one sub-series. The plastic was off gassing and the images were re-housed for preservation purposes.

**Contents:**

**Series 1: Correspondence**

Sub-Series: Official

1950-1959

Sub-Series: Visitation

1955

Sub-Series: Personal

1952-1956

Found in White Box

**Series 2: Refugee Relief and Immigration**

1956

Found in the White Box

**Series 3: Speeches**

1956

Found in the White Box

**Series 4: Jet Air Base**

1954-1956

Found in the White Box

**Series 5: Public Relations**

1954-1956

Found in the White Box

**Series 6: Military Academy Nominations**

1952-1957

Found in the White Box

**Series 7: Michigan Women's Hall of Fame**

1998-1999

Found in the White Box

**Series 8: Letterhead and Stationary**

Circa 1951-1956

Found in Box 5

**Series 9: Autobiographical Materials**

Dates unknown

Found in the White Box

**Series 10: Informational Materials**

1947-1956

Found in White Box and Oversize Folder

**Series 11: Materials for Distribution**

1951-1956

Found in White Box and Oversize Folder

**Series 12: Awards and Certificates**

1926-1960

Found in White Box and Oversize Folder

**Series 13: Guestbook**

1940-1956

Found in White Box

**Series 14: Newspaper Clippings**

1955-1998

Found in the White Box

**Series 15: Publications**

1957-1962

Found in the White Box

**Series 16: Notes**

Date unknown

Found in the White Box

**Series 17: Miscellaneous**

Dates unknown

Found in the White Box

**Series 18: Scrapbooks**

1940-1956

Blue in White Box, Brown in Scrapbook Box

**Series 19: Photographs**

Sub-Series: World War II Era

1940-1947

Sub-Series: Israel Trip

1950s

Sub-Series: Colleagues

1950s

Sub-Series: Portraits of Ruth

1887-1956

Sub-Series: Events Black Notebook

1950-1957

Sub-Series: Events

1950-1957

Sub-Series: Snapshots

1930-1960

Sub-Series: Oversize

1887-1956

Sub-Series: Loose Photographs

1946-1957

Found in the White Box and Oversize Folder

**Series 20: Postcards**

1940-1957

Found in the White Box