## Papers of

## MARION DICKERMAN

1918 - 1975

Accession Numbers: 80-18

NOTICE TO RESEARCHERS: The Papers of Marion Dickerman originally were placed on loan by the Roosevelt/Vanderbilt National Historic Site, National Park Service, which purchased the Papers from Marion Dickerman. In June 2003, the original collection was returned to the National Park Service at its request. Prior to the return of the collection, the Library photocopied the bulk of the Papers. This Finding Aid covers those photocopied materials. Only files specifically related to the day-to-day activities of Todhunter School and one postcard scrapbook were omitted from the photocopies. A copy of the original box and folder listing of the complete collection is appended to this Finding Aid. Researchers wanting to review the original collection should contact the National Park Service at 229-2501.

<u>Copyright</u>: Marion Dickerman did not donate copyright in her unpublished materials to the United States Government. Unpublished writings of Franklin D. Roosevelt are in the public domain. Unpublished writings of Eleanor Roosevelt not otherwise located in the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers are subject to Mrs. Roosevelt's literary estate.

Quantity: 2.4 linear feet (approximately 4,800 pages)

Restrictions: None

<u>Related Materials</u>: Additional materials relating to Marion Dickerman, Nancy Cook, and Eleanor Roosevelt may be found in the Papers of Eleanor Roosevelt and Franklin D. Roosevelt and in interviews conducted by the Eleanor Roosevelt Oral History Project. There is an interview with Marion Dickerman in the Oral History Project at Columbia University. See also INVINCIBLE SUMMER by Kenneth Davis, a portrait of Marion Dickerman based on her recollections.

#### MARION DICKERMAN

#### Biographical Sketch

Marion Dickerman was born in Westfield, New York, on April 11, 1890. She attended Wellesley in 1907-1909 and received her A.B. in 1911 at Syracuse University. There she met Nancy Cook who was to become her lifelong companion. She taught public school from 1912-1918, the last four years of which she headed the Fulton High School History Department.

Along with Nancy Cook she left for London in mid-1918 to serve on the staff of the Endell Street Hospital. Upon her return to the United States in 1919 she ran unsuccessfully as Democratic candidate for the New York State Assembly from Oswego County against the Speaker of the Assembly. She served in 1919-1920 as Executive Secretary for the Women's Joint Legislative Conference and was Dean of the New Jersey State Normal School at Trenton, 1920-1921.

In 1922 Marion Dickerman and Nancy Cook became acquainted with Eleanor Roosevelt. Their service on the Women's Division of the Democratic Committee made the three closer friends and Dickerman and Cook became frequent visitors to the Roosevelt home in Hyde Park. On one visit Franklin Roosevelt offered the three women a lifetime lease on some of his land near Val-Kill Creek for the purpose of building a cottage. A small handicraft factory was also built which eventually became known as Val-Kill Industries. In 1929 Marion Dickerman visited Europe with Eleanor Roosevelt.

From 1922 to 1927 Miss Dickerman taught at the fashionable Todhunter School for girls in New York City. In 1927 she joined with Eleanor Roosevelt and Nancy Cook to purchase the school. Marion Dickerman was principal of the school from 1927 to 1937; Eleanor Roosevelt spent time at the school as a teacher. When the Todhunter School affiliated with the Dalton School Miss Dickerman remained on in an administrative capacity until 1942.

Miss Dickerman had an abiding interest and involvement in labor matters. In 1938 she was appointed to a Presidential commission to study industrial relations in Great Britain and Sweden. In 1938-1939 she served on the Industry Committee of the Department of Labor; from 1942-1945 she was a member of the National Labor Relations Board. In 1942 she became Director of Public Education of the American Arbitration Committee. She

also co-edited a book on Who's Who in Labor. In 1945 she taught a course in Labor-Management and the War Effort at Manhattan College.

Miss Dickerman held a number of honorary positions. She was a member of the Board and Chairman of Civic Education at the Greenwich Settlement House, President of the New York State Branch of the American Association of University Women and a member of a committee to evaluate secondary schools and colleges in the middle states.

Throughout these years she was prominently involved in women's activities in the Democratic party and played a part in election campaigns for New York State governor and for president. She was well known as an educator and a sought after public speaker.

From 1945 to 1962 Miss Dickerman was educational director of the Marine Museum at Mystic Connecticut.

## PAPERS OF MARION DICKERMAN, 1918-1975 and undated

#### Container

#### Folder Title

1

Astor, Nancy (Lady) and Waldorf Autobiographical and Other Notes

Awards and Honors

B Correspondence Baruch, Bernard Baruch, Herman Beard, Mary R. Book Reviews

C Correspondence

Campaign Correspondence 1919 (2 folders)
Campaign Correspondence from Supporters 1919
Campaign Correspondence – Temperance Issue 1919
Campaign Materials 1919

Campaign Materials 1919 Campobello Visit 1933

Clapp, Margaret

2

## Commission on Industrial Relations 1938 (3 folders)

D Correspondence
Dalton School
Davis, William H.
Democratic Party
Drier, Mary Elizabeth

Endell Street Hospital – Correspondence 1919-1921 Endell Street Hospital – Interview English, Harold

Farley, James A. Fosdick, Harry Emerson Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

G Correspondence

H Correspondence Halsted, Anna Roosevelt Hammer, Armand Hull, Cordell

#### Container

3

#### Folder Title

Inaugurations and Invitations 1929-1945 Industry Committee, Department of Labor 1938-39 Invitations and Programs

J Correspondence

K Correspondence

L Correspondence Lehman, Herbert H.

M Correspondence Morgan, Arthur E. Morgenthau, Henry, Jr.

National War Labor Board 1942-1945 New Education Conference 1941

O Correspondence O'Day, Caroline

P Correspondence Perkins, Frances

R Correspondence

Reading, Stella (Marchioness) 1938-1971

Rosenburg, Anna Marie

Roosevelt, Eleanor 1925-1937

Roosevelt, Eleanor 1938-1941

Roosevelt, Eleanor 1942-1952

Roosevelt, Eleanor 1953-1962

Roosevelt, Eleanor Cards and Notes

Roosevelt, Eleanor Correspondence Undated (3 folders)

Roosevelt, Eleanor Todhunter School

Roosevelt, Eleanor Tour of South and Midwest 1934

Roosevelt, Eleanor UN Memorial

Roosevelt Family Obituaries

Roosevelt Family Scrapbook 1931-1934

Roosevelt Family Scrapbook 1935-1965

Roosevelt, Franklin D. 1929-1945

Roosevelt, Franklin D. Hilltop Cottage

Roosevelt, Franklin D. Satires

Roosevelt, Franklin D. Southern Trip 1934

Roosevelt, Franklin D. Speeches 1934-1940

Roosevelt, Sara

## Container

#### Folder Title

5

S Correspondence

Smith, Alfred

Social and Labor Issues – Pamphlets 1916-1924

Speeches 1919-1939 Speeches 1940-1942 Speeches 1943-1944

Swope, Gerard

T Correspondence

Taylor, Myron

Teaching – Manhattan College 1945

Thompson, Malvina

Todhunter School – Accreditation, By-Laws, Incorporation

Todhunter School - Car Theft Materials 1928-1931

Truman, Harry Tully, Grace G.

6

V Correspondence

Val-Kill Articles

Val-Kill Financial Statements and Lease

Val-Kill Founding and Dissolution 1924-1947

Val-Kill Furniture Prices

Vanderbilt Mansion Van Loon, Hendrick

Vireo

W Correspondence Welles, Sumner

Who's Who in Labor 1944-1946

Who's Who in Labor 1946-1947

Scrapbook—1919 Campaign "Women in Politics" (3 folders)

Scrapbook—Val-Kill Industries Furniture (2 folders)

### APPENDIX

# FINDING AID TO ORIGINAL COLLECTION RETURNED TO NPS JUNE 2003 MARION DICKERMAN PAPERS

# Container Contents Astor, Nancy (Lady) and Waldorf 1 Autobiographical and other notes Awards and Honors B Correspondence Baruch, Bernard Baruch, Herman Beard, Mary R. Book Reviews C Correspondence Campaign Correspondence 1919 (2 folders) Campaign Correspondence from Supporters 1919 Campaign Correspondence - Temperance Issue 1919 Campaign Materials 1919 \*Campaign 1919 "Women in Politics" (Scrapbook) 2 Campobello Visit 1933 Clapp, Margaret Commission on Industrial Relations 1938 (3 folders) D Correspondence Dalton School Davis, William H. Democratic Party Drier, Mary Elizabeth

Endell Street Hospital - Correspondence 1919-1921 Endell Street Hospital - Interview \*\*Endell Street Hospital (photo Album)

3 \*European Tour (Postcard Album) English, Harold

> Farley, James A. Fosdick, Harry Emerson Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

G Correspondence

<sup>\*</sup>Scrapbooks are filed at the end of the collection.
\*\*Photo Albums are filed in the audiovisual department.

## Container Contents

3 H Correspondence (cont'd) Halsted, Anna Roosevelt Hammer, Armand Hull, Cordell

> Inaugurations and Invitations 1929-1945 Industry Committee, Department of Labor 1938-39 Invitations and Programs

J Correspondence

K Correspondence

L Correspondence Lehman, Herbert H.

M Correspondence Morgan, Arthur E. Morgenthau, Henry, Jr.

National War Labor Board 1942-1945 New Education Conference 1941

O Correspondence O'Day, Caroline

P Correspondence Perkins, Frances

R Correspondence Reading, Stella (Marchioness) Rosenberg, Anna Marie

Roosevelt, Eleanor 1925-1937
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Roosevelt, Eleanor 1942-1952
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Roosevelt, Eleanor Cards and Notes
Roosevelt, Eleanor Correspondence Undated (3 folders)
Roosevelt, Eleanor Todhunter School
Roosevelt, Eleanor Tour of South and Midwest 1934
Roosevelt, Eleanor UN Memorial

22,

Roosevelt Family Obituaries
Roosevelt Family Scrapbook 1931-1934
Roosevelt Family Scrapbook 1935-1965

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Container
            Contents
    5
            Roosevelt, Franklin D.
                                    1929-1945
 (cont'd)
            Roosevelt, Franklin D.
                                    Hilltop Cottage
            Roosevelt, Franklin D.
                                    Satires
            Roosevelt, Franklin D.
                                    Southern Trip 1934
            Roosevelt, Franklin D.
                                    Speeches 1934-1940
            Roosevelt, Sara Delano
    6
            S Correspondence
            Smith, Alfred
            Social and Labor Issues - Pamphlets
            Speeches
                     1919-1939
            Speeches 1940-1942
            Speeches 1943-1944
            Swope, Gerard
            T Correspondence
            Taylor, Myron
            Teaching - Manhattan College
            Thompson, Malvina
    7
            Todhunter School
                              Accreditation, ByLaws, Incorporation (bound
            Todhunter School Brochures and Stationary
            Todhunter School Car Theft Materials 1928-1931
            Todhunter School
                              History and Philosophy
            Todhunter School
                              Photos (3 Folders)
    8
            Todhunter School
                              Primary School Albums and Materials (bound)
            Todhunter School
                              Publications
    9
   10
            Todhunter School
                              Trip with Eleanor Roosevelt to TVA 1937
            Todhunter School
                              1927-1928
            Todhunter School
                             1928-1929
            Todhunter School
                              1929-1930
            Todhunter School
                              1930-1931
            Todhunter School
                              1931-1932
            Todhunter School
                              1932-1933
            Todhunter School
                              1933-1934
   11
            Todhunter School
                              1934-1935
            Todhunter School 1935-1936
            Todhunter School 1936-1937
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(2 folders)

Todhunter School 1937-1938

## Container Contents

Truman, Harry Tully, Grace G.

V Correspondence Val-Kill Articles

Val-Kill Financial Statements and Lease

Val-Kill Founding and Dissolution 1924-1947

Val-Kill Furniture Prices

\*Val-Kill Furniture (Scrapbook)

Vanderbilt Mansion Van Loon, Hendrick Vireo

W Correspondence Welles, Sumner

Who's Who in Labor 1944-1946 Who's Who in Labor 1946-1947

<sup>\*</sup>Scrapbooks are filed at the end of the collection.