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Gertrude Vaile papers4079424

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Vaile, Gertrude, 1878-1954
Title:	Gertrude Vaile papers
ID:	4079424
ID:	MS#1280
Date [inclusive]:	1892-1954
Physical Description:	1.67 linear feet 4 document boxes
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Gertrude Vaile papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Libraries.

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Biographical Note

Gertrude Vaile (January 20, 1878 – October 15, 1954): Social Worker, Public Welfare Administrator, Reformer and Pioneer in Social Work Education

Vaile was born in Kokomo, Indiana the daughter of Joel Frederick and Charlotte White Vaile. When Vaile was about five her family moved to Denver where her father was appointed the general counsel for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. She attended public schools in Denver, graduated from Vassar College in 1900, and then went on to the Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy. While in Chicago, she was a resident at Chicago Commons, the settlement house founded by Graham Taylor. Shortly after graduating, she became a caseworker for United Charities in Chicago.

In 1913, Vaile was asked by the Mayor of Denver to take a position on the City Board of Charities and Corrections. She accepted the offer and within a year she became the executive director of the board. She applied the casework principles of the charity organization society movement (casework, case conferences, friendly visitors) to a publicly administered agency.

Vaile also introduced the use of interagency case conferences at which representatives of all public and private social agencies met to marshal community resources for clients. Through Vaile's efforts the Denver Board of Charities and Corrections evolved into the nation's first legitimate public social service agency.

Vaile also was affiliated with the Red Cross as the Director of Civilian Relief for the Mountain Division from 1917 to 1919. She was on the field staff of the Family Service Association of America from 1919 to 1923, covering the area west of the Mississippi. She left this position to become the executive director of the Colorado State Department of Charities and Corrections. In 1926, Vaile was elected president of the National Conference of Social Work.

In 1930 she took up academic life at the University of Minnesota, where she was an associate professor of sociology and the associate director of the Training Course for Social and Civic Work (later the School of Social Work) until her retirement in 1946. At Minnesota, she worked to strengthen the Association of Schools of Social Work that became the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE).

In her retirement, Vaile returned to Denver. She died in 1954.

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Summary

The collection covers Vaile's career from her days as a social worker in Chicago and Denver through her teaching positions. Included in the collection are teaching outlines, correspondence, printed material, and some typescripts of Vaile's writings.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in one series: Series I: Gertrude Vaile papers, 1892-1954.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

PDF replaced with full finding aid (JR) 2020-05-04

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Accruals

No additions are expected.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--School of Social Work. Method of acquisition--Transfer; Date of acquisition--1970. Accession number--M-70.

Custodial History

Materials were sent from the home of Gertrude Vaile to the New York School of Social Work (now known as the Columbia University School of Social Work) on October 15, 1956.

Processing Information

Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 09/--/89.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

[Mary Richmond papers, 1821-1928 \(MS#1069\)](#)

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Controlled Access Headings

- Social case work
- Social service -- Colorado -- Denver
- Social service -- Illinois -- Chicago
- Social work education
- Women social workers
- Women college teachers
- University of Minnesota -- : Faculty

Other Finding Aids

[Legacy Finding aid](#)

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Collection Inventory

Series I: Gertrude Vaile papers, 1892-1954

Scope and Contents

Order of arrangement is chronological by position held by Gertrude Vaile. Here and on the folders the names of employing institutions, followed by titles of positions occupied, are given on the left side; dates of such positions are given.

Title/Description	Instances
East Denver High School - Student, 1892-1896	box 1
Vassar College - Student, 1896-1900	box 1
Denver Residence - Daughter and Home-maker, 1900-1909	box 1
Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy - Student, 1909-1910	box 1
Chicago United Charities - District Visitor, then District Supervisor, 1910-1912	box 1
Denver Department of Charities - Board Member, then Executive Secretary, 1913-1917	box 1
American Red Cross, Mountain Division - Director of Civilian Relief, 1917-1919	box 1
American Association for Organizing Family Social Work - Western Field Representative, 1919-1924	box 1
Colorado State Department of Charities and Corrections - Secretary, 1925	box 1
National Conference of Social Work - President, 1926	box 1
Ames (Iowa) Social Service League - Secretary of League, and also County Social Worker of Story County, 1926-1928	box 1
Denver Residence. Rester, 1928-1929	box 1
North Carolina University - Student and Part-time Teacher, 1929-1930	box 2

Cultural Sociology and Social Psychology - Summaries of courses at Cornell	box 2
Family - course material	box 2
Rural Sociology - course material	box 2
Educational Sociology - course material	box 2
Social Law	box 2
Social Research Methods	box 2
Social Case Study and Social Case Work - course taught by Gertrude Vaile	box 2
Letters to Wilma van Dusseldorp	box 2
Miscellaneous	box 2
Thesis for M.A. - "Some Aspects of Family Social Work in Rural Counties in Iowa"	box 2
Minnesota University - Associate Professor of Sociology and Associate Director of Training Class for Social and Civic Work, (later) Graduate School of Social Work, 1930-1946	box 2
Appointment	box 2
Papers and addresses	box 2
Brookings Institute Survey by Graduate Students of Social Work School	box 2
Schools of Social Work – Organization and Administration	box 2
Sabbatic Leave - England, Sweden, Norway, Russia	box 3
Sabbatic Leave - Australia	box 3
Correspondence	box 3
Students' theses	box 3
Miscellaneous	box 3
Teaching Outlines - Historical Development of Social Work	box 3
Teaching Outlines - Public Welfare Administration	box 3
Teaching Outlines - Rural or County Social Work	box 4
Teaching Outlines - Casework Methods	box 4
Teaching Outlines - Special Topics: Aid to Dependent Children, Political Interference, Non-residents and Legal Settlement, Old Age Assistance, Personnel, Public and Private Relief, Social Insurance, Work Relief	box 4
Teaching - Miscellaneous	box 4

Denver University School of Social Work - Lecturer, 1946-1947	box 4
Denver Bureau of Public Welfare - Consultant, 1948-1950	box 4
Surveys including material on proposed Children's Code for Colorado	box 4
Colorado Conference on Social Work - Representative on Joint Planning and Legislative Committee, Secretary of Committee, 1948-1950	box 4
Denver Residence - Retired Social Worker, 1951-1954	box 4
Personal data including list of publications	box 4

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