Guide to the Alfred Geddes Papers MS 008

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Western Connecticut State University Archives and Special Collections

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Summary Information

Repository:	Western Connecticut State University Archives and Special Collections
Creator:	Geddes, Alfred T.
Title:	Alfred Geddes Papers
ID:	MS 008
Date [inclusive]:	1913-1959
Date [bulk]:	1940-1950
Physical Description:	7.5 Linear Feet , 4 boxes and 1 OS Folder
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Geddes was appointed Dean of Men at Danbury State Teacher's College in 1947 and served in that role until he retired in 1974. In 1939, he earned a Masters in education from Yale, and in 1955 received his Doctorate in Student Personnel from New York University. He joined the Army in the 1930s and served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. Geddes was a military history enthusiast and amassed a number of books on the subject. His papers contain personal materials from his career as an educator, soldier and military history collector.

Preferred Citation

Published citations should take the following form:
Identification of item, date (if known); The Alfred Geddes Papers; MS 008; box number; folder number;

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Historical/Biographical Note

Alfred Geddes dedicated his life to education. He spent most of his life in Connecticut and became a fixture in the city of Danbury.

Alfred Thomas Geddes was born in Waterbury, Connecticut, on March 14, 1909, to William Geddes and Maryann Ryan Geddes. He was raised in New Haven, Connecticut, and lived there until he left to pursue his education. For most of his adult life, he lived in Brookfield, Connecticut.

In 1929, Geddes received his first college degree from Arnold College (in New Haven) where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in physical education. He went on to receive his Bachelor of Science in education from Boston University in 1932. In 1939, he earned his Masters in education from Yale, and in 1955 he received his Doctorate in Student Personnel from New York University.

His teaching career began shortly after he was finished at Boston University. His first teaching job was at Oliver Perry High School in Providence, Rhode Island. He moved on to the Hamden School system in Hamden, Connecticut. He served as a teacher in physical education at both schools. Geddes also worked as an administrator at the Southbury Training School in Southbury, Connecticut. In 1937, Geddes began his tenure at Danbury State Teacher's College, now known as Western Connecticut State University. He served as the Dean of Men from 1947 until he retired in 1974.

During his tenure as Dean of Men, Geddes met his wife, Claire Trisch. She served as the Dean of Women from 1946 until she retired in 1975. They worked side by side as Deans for several years before they got married in 1958. The Geddes worked as deans of the college while Ruth A. Haas was the president. In fact, they were two of the original administrators hired by Haas. When all three retired (Alfred in 1974 and Claire and Ruth Haas in 1975), it marked the end of an era in the history of the university.

Geddes joined the Army Air Corps in the 1930s and served in World War II. He left the military with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Besides serving in the war, Geddes was fascinated with military history, and collected books about military history. Geddes was also a member of several clubs including the Rotary Club of Danbury and the Yale Club of New York City.

Alfred Geddes died in Danbury Hospital in Danbury, Connecticut, on April 15, 2001, at the age of 92.

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Scope and Content Note

The collection documents his interest in education from his time as a student in the late 1920s up to his retirement from WCSU in 1974. The military materials contain materials from his days serving in the army in the 1930s and 1940s and books on military history that he collected.

In this collection are letters, photographs (one of which is framed) and a photo album, clippings, college papers a theses, maps, books, manuals, magazines, pamphlets, a phonograph record, newspapers, and a WWII era service man's hat.

There are several photographs of Geddes in uniform, including the framed photograph. Several old photographs of his family are found in the photo album. Most of the publications in this collection are army-training manuals, although there are some that are non-military related. The newspapers in this collection are issues Geddes kept from his time in the Pacific in World War II. They primarily came from the Philippines. Primarily Geddes' college papers and thesis date to his time at both Yale and NYU, although some appear to be done for him by students or done as part of a group effort. There are some yearbooks in this collection as well. Two yearbooks are from Arnold College (including his graduating year, 1929). There is also a 1975 Western Connecticut State College yearbook signed by Jim Dyer for Claire. There is also a copy of the book *Henry Bernard: An Introduction*, which was co-authored by Dr. Ralph Jenkins, the third president of this university.

The collection contains many newspaper and magazine articles that appear to have come from the *Danbury News-Times*, the *New York Times*, and the *Boston Herald* and magazines like *Life*. However, it is not known from which paper or magazine all the clippings originated as many articles were clipped without identifying information such as title or date. Included also are a set of U.S. military publications on tactics published during the Second World War and immediately after.

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Arrangement

Folders are arranged topically.

The files are grouped into 2 series:

Missing Title

1 Personal Papers
2 Printed material

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Provenance

Donated to the Archives in 2002.

Access Restrictions

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Related Materials

Related Material

Truman Warner Papers.

Geddes Collection Monographs in Special Collections

Separated Material

The collection included a issues of newspapers and magazines; however, these items were removed from the collection due to their poor condition. These items include: The *New York Times* July 21, 1969, edition, the *Boston Globe*, *News-Times*, and *Hartford Courant* August 9, 1974, editions, and *Life* magazine November 23, 1936, November 18, 1946, and December 29, 1972 editions have been removed from this collection, but copies are available in the Haas Library.

Click here to view a list of books that were accessioned with this collecion. Books not in Special Collections are part of the Haas circulating collection.

Separated Materials

Civil War era photo album removed to the MS 060 Civil War Misc. Collection.

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Controlled Access Headings

- United States -- History -- World War, 1939-1945.
- Universities and colleges -- Administration.
- Clippings.
- Publications.
- Books
- Correspondence.
- Danbury (Conn.)
- Scrapbooks.
- Waterbury (Conn.)
- Photographs.
- Western Connecticut State University
- Tisch, Claire.
- Haas, Ruth A., 1903-1986.
- United States. Army. Air Corps.

- Danbury State Teachers College.
- Geddes Family.

Collection Inventory

Papers

Language of the Material: English

Title/Description	Instances	
Clippings (military)- various clippings dealing primarily w/ World War II, obituaries, and magazine articles, undated	box 1	folder 1
Clippings (education)- included in these are clippings about collegiate sports, 1932 Boston University Commencement, and Dr. Robert M. Hutchins, 1932-1973	box 1	folder 2
Clippings (personal)- local people and book reviews, 1945-1992	box 1	folder 3
Letters and notes Geddes wrote while in the military, 1938-1941	box 1	folder 4
Army Extension Course certificates and tests by Geddes, 1937-1941	box 1	folder 5
Official letters Geddes received from the Army and War Department, 1932-1942	box 1	folder 6
Special Orders from the Army, 1934-1942	box 1	folder 7
Miscellaneous letters and manuals, undated	box 1	folder 8
Various forms from the War Department, undated	box 1	folder 9
Receipts of inventory purchases Geddes made, 1941-1942	box 1	folder 10
Maps of the war, undated	box 1	folder 11
Five Fighting Years (book), 1944 **General** A pamphlet about Australia's contribution in World War II.	box 1	folder 12
Manual, "Nuclear Weapons Employment," June 1959, 1959	box 1	folder 13
Manuals #1-, 1943-1967 **General note** - "Connecticut Men of the United States Army," Nov 1-3 & Nov 3-5, 1945, "Fallout Protection for Homes	box 1	folder 14

with Basements," May 1967, "Bulletin of the U.S. Army Medical Department," 1943

Manuals #2-, 1929-1931 **General note** - "Employment of the Cavalry," 1929, "Basic Field Manual Volume III: Basic Weapons," 1932, "Training Regulations: The Cavalry Rifle Squad," 1931, "Training Regulations: The Cavalry Rifle Platoon," 1931	box 1	folder 15
Book- *6th Armored Division*, 1953	box 1	folder 16
Bureau of Engineering and Construction manual, 1945	box 1	folder 17
Cavalry Operations manuals (1-30), ca.1929	box 1	folder 18
Military Training Regulations manuals, 1922-1931	box 1	folder 19-23
Military Reserve Officer magazine, February-October 1937, 1937	box 1	folder 24-32
Fragments from France, part 5 by Capt. Bruce Bairnsfather, 1918 Digital Object: Fragments from France, part 5 by Capt. Bruce Bairnsfather: 1918	box 1	folder 33
Fragments from France, part 6 by Capt. Bruce Bairnsfather, 1918 Digital Object: Fragments from France, part 6 by Capt. Bruce Bairnsfather: 1918	box 1	folder 34
The Bystander's Fragments away from France, vol. 2, no. 8 by Capt. Bruce Bainsfather, undated Digital Object: The Bystander's Fragments away from France, vol. 2, no. 8 by Capt. Bruce Bainsfather	box 1	folder 35
Miscellaneous, 1943-1992 **General note** -pamphlet "The World Federation System," sticker, "Still Serving: U.S. Army Retired," General Orders card, pamphlet "National Gettysburg Battlefield Tower," article "The World's Most Skilful Liar," (article about Joseph Goebbels), Fifth Air Force Christmas 1943 announcement, article "Under Fire with the Tenth U.S. Cavalry," article "Prejudice! Roadblock to Progress," article "The Last Horse Soldiers," two envelopes, jacket for the book *Soldier*	box 1	folder 36
-*New Haven Grays, 1816-1876*, Lucke, Jerome B., 1876	box 1	folder *
-*The Menace from Moresby: A Pictorial History of the 5th Air Force in World War II*, compiled by Sinton, Russell L., n.d. (ca 1946), undated	box 1	folder *

Personal photographs, undated	box 2	folder 37
Letters and postcards, 1938-1988	box 2	folder 38
Danbury State College "Class of 1960" program and photograph for Claire Geddes, 2001	box 2	folder 39
Illustration- "Danbury State Teacher's College", 1942	box 2	folder 40
Cutter, Richard, "Over and Out; Sam's Story", 1999	box 2	folder 41-43
Book of images of Danbury and surrounding towns, undated	box 2	folder 44
Story of John F. Kennedy book, 1964	box 2	folder 45
Personal miscellaneous #1, undated **General note** -handbook "The Mass on the Day of Marriage,"1955, certificate for Geddes, March 1942, Fiftieth anniversary diploma for James Geddes from the Mercersburg Academy (Mercersburg, Pennsylvania), October 1967, Memorial Service announcement from Yale (James Geddes), June 10, 1973, St. Joseph's Church service announcements (James Geddes), July 27, 1975	box 2	folder 46
Personal miscellaneous #2, 1934-1956 **General note** -cash receipt, May 31, 1939, flyer from *The Dehner Company, Inc.* w/ order form and price list, August 7, 1936, papers w/ Asian writing, Greenwich Library bookwagon schedule, 1958-1959, report on a young men from the "New Jersey State Home for Boys," 1934-1936, parade orders "Danbury's New Look Celebration," November 15, 1956, article "Writing Man, Fighting Man," business cards, "Katten and Sons" uniform price list, envelope	box 2	folder 47
Letters dealing w/ education, 1929-1945	box 2	folder 48
Yale Thesis- "The Health Program in the ElementarySchools of Connecticut", 1939	box 2	folder 49-50
NYU Paper- "Introduction to Student Personnel Services in Colleges and Universities," (Dr. Cornehlsen, professor), December, 1949	box 2	folder 51
Outline for NYU thesis on Danbury State Teacher'sCollege- "A Study of the Personnel Services Program for Students in the Elementary Teacher Education Curriculum at Danbury State Teacher's College," May 14, 1954	box 2	folder 52
Papers from NYU by Geddes, undated	box 2	folder 53

General note

-"Testing and Student Personnel Work," (unknown date), "Organization and Administration Educational Guidance," (Dr. Cornehlsen, professor), January 1950, "In-Service Education for Faculty," (unknown date)

NYU Papers miscellaneous, 1950	box 2	folder 54
Danbury Elementary School source book, 1973	box 2	folder 55
1928 Yale Commencement book (two), 1928	box 2	folder 56
Yale Club of New York City books, (1949-50, 1981), 1981	box 2	folder 57
Danbury State Teacher's College and Danbury StateCollege program books, (1950-51, 1956-57, 1964), 1964	box 2	folder 58
Boston University commencement 1932, Hamden HighSchool Program, 1932	box 2	folder 59
Teacher's Education Quarterly, 1956	box 2	folder 60
Lectures on Dr. Eliot's Five-Foot Shelf of Books, no. 8(education), 10 (drama), 11 (voyages & travel), and 12 (religion), 1913	box 2	folder 61
CT Geology books w/ maps (see OS folder for maps), 1951-1954	box 2	folder 62

General note

-"Bedrock Geology of the Litchfield Quadrangle," 1951, "Geology of the New Preston Quadrangle," 1952, "Bedrock Geology of the Woodbury Quadrangle," 1954

New Jersey State Home for Boys 7th annual report, 1934	box 2	folder 63
New College catalogues, 1939	box 2	folder 64
Education miscellaneous, 1928-1930	box 2	folder 65

General note

-Harvard University "Intramural Athletics," 1928-1929, B.U. "Athletic Regulations," 1929, Arnold College football schedule, 1928-1929, College baseball schedule, 1930, Boston University Athletic Council flyer, commencement card Sheffield Scientific School

Serviceman's hat, undated	box OS 1	item 17

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Printed Materials and Miscellanea

Language of the Material: English

Miscellaneous

Language of the Material: English

Title/Description	Instances	
-*Henry Barnard: An Introduction*, Jenkins, Ralph Ph. D. and Gertrude Warner, 1937	box 2	item 1
-*Yale Club of New York City*, 1946-1947	box 2	item 2
-*University Club*, 1961	box 2	item 3
-*History of the Class of 1928: Sheffield Scientific School*, 1928	box 2	item 4
-Arnold College yearbooks, 1927-1929	box 2	item 5
-Western Connecticut State College Yearbook,1975 (signed by Jim Dyer for Claire), 1975	box 2	item 6
-NYU Thesis "A Study of the Personnel Services Program for the Students in the Elementary Teacher Education Curriculum at Danbury State Teacher's College", 1955	box 2	item 7
-Yale Thesis "An Integration of the Extra School Agencies of a Community with the School Program", 1936	box 2	item 8
-Other Thesis "Guidance at the Secondary School Level," (Dr. Clyde Hill, professor), undated	box 2	item 9
Record- *Dec 7, 1941*, undated	box OS 1	item 1
Photo album, 1850s-1880s Digital Object: Photo album **General** This album is of unknown provenance. It appears to be a family album from around the Civil War. Some names include: Porth, Stoll, and Freune. Subjects were photographed in New Haven, New York, and San Francisco.	box OS 1	item 2
Photograph of Geddes in uniform, circa 1945 Digital Object: Al Geddes in Uniform	box OS 1	item 3
Two photographs of Geddes' regiment, undated	box OS 1	item 4
Panoramic Photograph of (Commercial High School) CHS, 1926 class, 1926 Digital Object: CHS Class of 1926	folder OS 2	

General

Formerly located on Tower Parkway in New Haven, CT; area now part of Yale University.

"The World At War" map, February 1943 (map is seen in framed photograph), 1943	box OS 1	item 6
Sheet music: "2nd Regiment of Connecticut National Guard", undated	box OS 1	item 7
Scrapbooks of space exploration and "Project Rescue", undated	box OS 1	item 8
Newspaper: *The Courier Mail* (Brisbane), April 30, May 3,7-9, 19, June 12, 1945., 1945	box OS 1	item 9
Newspaper: *The Sunday Mail* (Brisbane), April 29, 1945, 1945	box OS 1	item 10
Philippine Press, May 8, 1945, *Free Philippines*, March15, April 25, 1945, *Victory News*, March 27, 1945, *Manila Chronicle*, April 21, 1945, *Manila Daily Mail*, May 10, 1945, 1945	box OS 1	item 11
The Tribune, (Manila, Philippines), February 8; March 29; April 5, 26, 28; June 7, 17, 1944., 1944	box OS 1	item 12
Sunday Tribune, (Manila, Philippines), March 12;September 19, 26; October 31; November 14, 1944, 1944	box OS 1	item 13
Daily Pacifican, August 11-12, 25-26, 29-31, September 1,9, 12, 18, 23, 1945, 1945	box OS 1	item 14
The Commercial News, (Commercial High School, New Haven, CT), September 28, 1944, 1944	box OS 1	item 15
Maps from CT Geology books, undated	box OS 1	item 16

Military publications

Language of the Material: English

Title/Description	Instances	
Supplemental Material on the First World War, Jul 1939	box 3	item 1
The Campaign in Poland 1939, Jul 1942	box 3	item 2
The Campaign in the West 1940, Jul 1942	box 3	item 3
Operations of the Russian Front Part 1: 22 June 1941 to November 1942, Feb 1943	box 3	item 4
Operations of the Russian Front Part 2: November, 1942 - December, 1943, Feb 1944	box 3	item 5
Great Captains Before Napoleon, 1945	box 3	item 6
Jomini, Clausewitz and Schlieffen, 1945	box 3	item 7

Campaign Summaries Part 1: To Include the First World War, 1945	box 3	item 8
Operations of the Russian Front Part 3: January - December 1944, Mar 1945	box 3	item 9
The Invasion of Western Europe Part 1: 6 June to 31 December 1944, Dec 1945	box 3	item 10
Notes on Combat Maneuvers, 1946	box 3	item 11
Campaign Summaries Part 2: World War II, 1946	box 3	item 12
The Invasion of Western Europe Part 2: January to May 1945, Mar 1946	box 3	item 13
German Defense Tactics Against Russian Break-Throughs, No. 20-233 (classified), Oct 1951	box 3	item 14

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