

# Ada Greenwood MacLaughlin Papers

Ada MacLaughlin was the daughter of James Greenwood, Superintendent of the Kansas City School District from 1874 to 1913. She was a history teacher at Westport High School.

## Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Ada Greenwood MacLaughlin  
**Title:** Ada Greenwood MacLaughlin papers  
**Dates:** circa 1870-1925, bulk 1890-1916  
**Size:** 2 flat boxes, 2 legal size boxes  
**Location:** SC86-3

## Administrative Information

**Restrictions on access:** Unrestricted access.

**Related collections in other repositories:** James Mickelborough Greenwood Papers, 1874-1914, (G1), Pickler Memorial Library, Truman State University, Kirksville, Missouri.

**Acquisition information:** Unknown. Believed most of collection did not originate with Ada Greenwood MacLaughlin. However, the collection is associated with the Greenwood family.

**Custodial history:** There is documentation in newspaper clippings of a collection of 1,000 books donated by Mrs. MacLaughlin's son(s) in 1961. However, it does not mention other material. Found with this collection was an inventory prepared at some unknown date but presumably sometime between 1960-85. Although both the James M. Greenwood Papers and the Josephine Woodbury Heermans Greenwood Papers were found complete as per this inventory, most of the items listed with the Ada MacLaughlin inventory were not found with the collection when it was processed.

**Citation note:** Ada Greenwood MacLaughlin papers (SC86-3), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

## Collection Description

### **Biographical/Historical note**

Ada Greenwood MacLaughlin was the daughter of Amanda and James M. Greenwood and was born at Kirksville, Missouri on August 1, 1860. She was born into a family of educators. Her father was the superintendent of the Kansas City School District from 1874 to 1913 and her mother was a teacher.

Ada came with her parents to Kansas City in 1874 when Professor Greenwood was appointed superintendent. She became known as a reader and elocutionist, even considering a career on the stage. Instead she chose marriage and in 1881 married William Henry MacLaughlin in Kansas City, Missouri. The MacLaughlins lived their married life in Pekin and Peoria, Illinois and Ada studied law with her husband and passed the Illinois bar. The couple had three sons, twins Thomas G. and William Henry and Edmund G., who died at age seven. The twins

eventually became president and secretary of the Santa Fe Savings and Loan Association in Kansas City.

Mr. MacLaughlin died in 1904 and Ada decided to move to Kansas City. She began teaching history in the local high schools, going first to Manual High School and eventually to Westport High School in 1908. She remained as a teacher at Westport until her death, thus giving her 31 years of teaching service to the district. Because of her love of history, much of her travel included visiting areas of historic significance in the eastern part of the United States.

Her interests were varied. She apparently loved to travel and spent time in Europe as well as completing a trip around the world. Doing genealogy was also a favorite activity and she was considered an authority in the field. She traveled to Washington and Virginia in order to research her ancestors. She held membership in patriotic societies as the Daughters of the American Revolution, Colonial Dames of the 17th Century, United Daughters of 1812, Pioneer and Patriots Association, and the National Society of Daughters of American Colonists.

Locally, Mrs. MacLaughlin was credited with restoring the cemetery in which Daniel Morgan Boone and other Boone family members were buried located on 63rd Street near Brooklyn Avenue. She also was at one time president of the Harris Home Association, promoting the preservation of the historic Harris House in Westport. In 1921, she aided in the organization of Missouri's centennial celebration.

Ada Greenwood MacLaughlin died in her sleep, May 31, 1935, while living at the Chatham Hotel in Kansas City. Her twin sons and four grandchildren survived her. The funeral service was held at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral in downtown Kansas City.

Biographical information taken from her obituaries in the *Kansas City Star* and the *Journal-Post*.

### **Scope and content note**

Content items found in the collection include: a scrapbook, posters, charts, certificates, sheet music, cancelled envelopes, lecture notes and papers, genealogy notes, newspaper clippings, magazine articles, a school slate, convention buttons and badges, miscellaneous notes, diary/journal/ daybook entries, photographs and negatives, and other miscellaneous/ephemeral items.

The material found in Box 1 and Box 2 probably did belong to Ada Greenwood MacLaughlin. This includes a scrapbook with her name in the front, and other various miscellaneous items that appear to be associated with her or her parents. Many of those items found in Box 3 and 4 such as lecture notes and papers as well as diary/journal/daybooks appear to have belonged to Josephine Heermans Greenwood. The lecture notes may also have belonged to James M. Greenwood.

Of particular interest are the diaries or daybooks or journals that Josephine kept. The bulk of these personal journals fall between 1895 – 1907, years when she was principal of Whittier School in the Kansas City School District and before her marriage to Professor Greenwood. Much of what was written concerned her management of the school and provides insight into the educational processes of the day. Mrs. Greenwood was also a Christian Scientist in her religious

preference and she not only collected material on the subject but makes references to its practices and her beliefs in these papers.

Both Josephine Greenwood and James Greenwood were practicing lecturers apparently for the income it generated but also because they were drawn to that venue and seemed to relish the travel it often involved. There are numerous speech or lecture outlines in both Box 3 and 4 and because many of the topics cover education it is difficult to determine whom they belonged to. Mrs. Greenwood in her journals makes mention of delivering talks to the Greenwood Club and of critiquing other presentations. These materials present a good overview of the issues discussed and considered of importance in the field of education as well as other topics.

The cancelled envelopes probably belonged with the letters that are found in both SC 86-1 and SC 86-2. It is not known if they came separated at the time the collections were acquired or if they were separated later while in the possession of the library.

Artifacts of interest found in the collection include a school slate, ca1890, which belonged to Edmund, the deceased son of Ada MacLaughlin. James Greenwood in particular was very active in the National Education Association, held offices in the group and attended many of the national conventions. Numerous convention buttons and badges primarily from this organization are found in Box 3. A list of them is included in the folder with them. In Box 4, Folder 1 is found a Christmas card that contains 2 coins with the name of "S. E. Ward, Sutler...Good for 50 cents..." Rather than originals these may have been reproductions produced at some unknown time.

The genealogy materials include a few half sheets giving some limited vital records information for Josephine's Woodbury side. It can be found scattered in folders in Box 4. Greenwood genealogy resources are also sparse and can be found in Box 2 and 3.

Other papers and writings include topics as literature, poetry, history, and travel observations and appear to be written primarily by Josephine Heermans Greenwood. The Greenwood Series provides much insight into the life of Josephine, especially when one combines this collection with both SC 86-1 and SC 86-2. The series together provide a window into life in Kansas City surrounding the turn of the 20th century and chronicle the lives of important educators and interesting people of the time.

### **Collection Inventory**

#### **Box 1**

- 1 pupil record book for Washington School, ca1870-1875, 10" x 15", converted into a scrapbook with Ada Greenwood's name in front and dated Oct. 7, 1877. It contains newspaper clippings that were pasted in over the school record pages. The clippings contain topics of interest of that day including religious, social and historical subjects, as well as poetry. Approximately one half of the scrapbook's original pages were pasted over. The clippings are mostly not local topics.

#### **Box 2 - Miscellaneous charts/posters/certificates/sheet music, 1895-1907**

- Football game poster, Central vs. Manual, Saturday, Nov. 4, 1905

- Certificate of ownership of shares for J. M. Greenwood in Confederate Monument in Forest Hill Cemetery, Kansas City, Mo., n.d.
- Piece of sheet music entitled "Semi-Centennial Parade", Central College, Fayette, Missouri, October, 1907.
- Reprint of Abraham Lincoln "Bixby Letter"
- Poster portrait of Abraham Lincoln
- National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution certificate of membership for Mrs. Amanda A. Greenwood, July 16, 1898 7. Headquarters Co. A. 3d Regiment, National Guards of Missouri Veterans honorary membership, Oct. 28, 1895. Also mailing container

### Box 3

- **Folder 1** – 150 empty cancelled envelopes, letters addressed mainly to Mrs. Josephine Heermans Greenwood, 1897 – 1915. Correspondence contained in letters is probably the correspondence found in SC 86-1 and SC 86-2.
- **Folder 2** – Handwritten lecture notes, probably done by either Josephine Heermans Greenwood or James Greenwood, on art work and artists written on the back of hotel stationary and the Council of Clubs stationary; 2 published 4 page notes from the following series - (1) National Art, and (2) Educational Problems
- **Folder 3** – 7 lecture note card sets and envelopes, Labeled Lecture I, II, III, on various topics, probably belonged to James Greenwood or Josephine Heermans Greenwood.
- **Folder 4** – 11 lecture note card sets in envelopes, Labeled Lecture IV – XII, on various topics, probably belonged to James Greenwood or Josephine Heermans Greenwood.
- **Folder 5** – 18 lecture note card sets in envelopes, on various topics, probably belonged to James Greenwood or Josephine Heermans Greenwood.
- **Folder 6** – 15 of what appears to be lecture outlines on sheets of paper with categories that are mainly concerning education. Also lecture topics are listed out on an envelope and folder contains a printed flyer entitled "Some Educational Tests, Suggested By a Conversation With An Expert". Probably belonged to Mr. Greenwood or Josephine Greenwood.
- **Folder 7** – 20 of what appears to be lecture outlines on sheets of paper and topics listed out on an envelope. Mostly education related and most all typewritten.
- **Folder 8** – 13 of what appears to be lecture outlines, typewritten on sheets of paper on various topics and listed out on an envelope.
- **Folder 9** – 6 of what appears to be lecture outlines, typewritten, with an envelope titled "Literature and Poetry."
- **Folder 10** – 4 of what appears to be lecture outlines, typewritten, with titles listed on an envelope, primarily education related.

- **Folder 11** – 11 of what appears to be lecture outlines, typewritten, with titles listed on an envelope, primarily education related. Also newspaper clipping from Pittsburg Press, Aug. 29, 1893.
- **Folder 12** – 19 of what appears to be lecture outlines, typewritten, with titles listed on an envelope, primarily education related. Also published outlines on drawing, civil government, grammar, pedagogies, U.S. history, arithmetic, and geography.
- **Folder 13** – 9 of what appears to be lecture outlines, typewritten, with titles listed on an envelope, primarily education, mathematics related. Also a published pamphlet entitled Mind Charts by Alex. E. Frye, Sup't of Schools, San Bernardino, California.
- **Folder 14** – 29 of what appears to be lecture outlines, mostly typewritten, with titles listed on an envelope, primarily education, mathematics related. Most are numbered outlines.
- **Folder 15** – Miscellaneous genealogy related material. Includes preliminary application and application for membership in Missouri Society Sons of the American Revolution with pedigree chart on back, Revolutionary War pension form from the Department of the Interior, certificate of membership for Ada Greenwood MacLaughlin in the Society of the Colonial Daughters of the Seventeenth Century, etc.
- **Folder 16** – Newspaper clipping (photocopied), September 30, 1891, from front page and denotes death of Ada MacLaughlin's son in Pekin, Illinois. Also Western School Journal published in Topeka, Kansas, May, 1888, v.4, #6 issue.
- **Folder 17** – School slate, 7 ½" x 10 ½", with card that says "This is Greenwood's slate as his teacher sent it from school which he had attended two weeks. He died September 30, 1891—nearly 7. His Mother was Ada G. MacLaughlin"
- **Folder 18** – Collection of buttons and badges, mostly National Education Association conference related, 1892-1910 and presumably belonging to James M. Greenwood. List of badges included in folder done by processor.

#### **Box 4**

##### **Folder 1**

- Christmas card with 2 coins inserted that read "S.E. Ward, Sutler, U.S.A., Fort Laramie, D.T., Good for 50 cents in sutlers goods"
- Handwritten 3 pages paper on truth, etc.
- "B. Bjornson, Prophet and Reformer" – typewritten speech on half sheets, 2c., second copy includes newspaper clippings and published article on Bjornson.

##### **Folder 2**

- Two typewritten papers/speeches

- “The Spirit of the Classics” – 15 p., 2 c.
- “The Essential Place of Religion in Education” – 24 p.

### Folder 3

- “Life” –Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy, Christian Science Sentinel, February 2, 1918, copy, typewritten, 6 p.
- “History for Young Children” – typewritten paper/speech, 5 p.

### Folder 4

- Notes written on hotel stationary, 1915
- Handwritten paper titled “Echoes of the Exposition,” 3 p.
- Notes entitled “On Way to Katskills,” 1903
- Handwritten notes – “Notes by the Way,” 1915, “Much about C. S. Association”
- Handwritten bound notes – “Fullerton’s Philosophy”
- Back 2 sheets (#2 and #3) of a paper/speech, typewritten.

### Folder 5

- Handwritten sheet entitled “A summer day in Kansas City, Mo., July 30, 1917,” written by Josephine Heermans Greenwood.
- Handwritten, 2 sheets, untitled paper, n.d.
- Handwritten, 3 sheets, written on back-“Notes in Wisconsin on Way to W. Superior”, signed “Joe” [Josephine Heermans Greenwood]
- Handwritten notes, 2 p., dated Oct. 22, '03
- Handwritten rebuttal to article in the Journal concerning James Greenwood, Dec. 10, back says “Editorial” in Journal.
- Typewritten speech/paper, untitled, concerning Poland Springs, Maine.
- Typewritten speech/paper entitled “A Studio in Roslyn,” 2p.
- Typewritten speech/paper entitled “A Southern Wedding,” 3p.
- Typewritten speech/paper entitled “Old Faithful,” 3p., 2c.
- Typewritten speech/paper untitled, 3p.
- Typewritten speech/paper entitled “Vacation Days, Down Memory’s Lane, “Listen to the Mocking bird,” 2 p.
- Typewritten speech/paper entitled “Echoes of the Exposition,” 10 p.

**Folder 6**

- Typewritten speech/paper entitled "Echoes of the Exposition," 8 p.
- Handwritten speech/paper entitled "Bedford Springs: A Reminiscence," 5 p.
- Typewritten and handwritten copy, speech/paper entitled "Flax in New Hampshire," 3p.
- Handwritten speech/paper entitled "Scarborough," 5 p.
- Handwritten speech/paper entitled "The Dominie of Tonkawa," 3 p.
- Handwritten speech/paper entitled "A Modern Martha," 4 p.
- Half sheet of marriage recordings for Woodbury family
- Typewritten speech/paper entitled "Biographical Sketch" [John Ruskin], 4 p.
- Typewritten speech/paper addressed "Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:" [by Mr. Hale Cook, member sch. Bd.], 3 p. ("Greenwood Club 1906 " on back)
- Typewritten speech/paper entitled "The Relation of the Principal to His Teachers," 3 p.

**Folder 7**

- Handwritten speech/paper entitled "The Transition Period Between the Old Order and the New," 12 p.
- Typewritten speech/paper entitled "Echoes of the Exposition," 5 p.
- Handwritten speech/paper entitled "Finnish Art," 4 p.
- Half sheet of birth recordings for Woodbury family
- Handwritten speech/paper entitled "Purpose," 5 p. [Josephine Heermans]
- Handwritten speech/paper entitled "The Nature of Consciousness," 16 p. [Josephine Heermans]
- Typewritten speech/paper untitled on Cap Cod, 3 p.
- Missouri School Journal 4 part article entitled "The Essential Place of Religion in Education" [By Mrs. Josephine Greenwood, Kansas City, Mo.]; "General Remarks on a Plan for Introducing Religious Teaching Into the Public Schools" by Mrs. Josephine Greenwood, Kansas City, Mo.; "Religion in Public Education" by Josephine Greenwood, Kansas City, Mo.; "Religious Education in the Schools" by Josephine Greenwood, Kansas City, Mo., n.d.
- Typewritten extract from Brooklyn Daily Eagle, New York, July 1, 1917, 1 p.
- Miscellaneous items – newspaper clipping, handwritten list of names, 3 diary pages

- Handwritten speech/paper entitled "The Plantation on Bayou Teche," 4 p.

#### **Folder 8**

- Typewritten speech/paper, partial, entitled "A Storm in the Katskills," p.3 and 4 only.
- Partial daily diary entries, 1900, contain some newspaper clippings.
- Typewritten poetry, some written by Josephine Heermans Greenwood.
- Assorted diary notes, handwritten, most from the Catskills, believed to belong to Mrs. Greenwood.
- Half sheet of death recordings for Woodbury family

#### **Folder 9**

- Typewritten, addressed: To the members of the Kansas City Council of Administrative Women in Education, signed Sally Knox Boon, April 20, 1925, 1 p.
- Typewritten speech/paper entitled "The Quiz," 9 p.
- Handwritten speech/paper entitled "Echoes of the Exposition," 4 p.
- Typewritten speech/paper, no title (on Christian Science), 4 p.
- Handwritten speech/paper entitled "Deliverance", 9 p., signed Josephine Heermans Greenwood.
- Handwritten poetry by Josephine Greenwood, 3 p.
- European scenes in color, 4 different scenes with ribbon on top
- Newspaper clipping of a cartoon, n.d.

#### **Folder 10**

Folder contains 23 black and white negatives, 3 ½" x 4" and small prints. These photos appear to have been taken on board an ocean crossing ship and have various people in them. No identification or date.

#### **Folder 11**

Six photographs, same pose, of James Greenwood, n.d. Two photos are in containers.

#### **Folder 12**

Five photographs, varying sizes, black and white, unidentified. Include a sight seeing group in the mountains with horse and buggy, portraits of two women, man (Greenwood?) seated in office, and a child.

**Folder 13**

Three photographs, varying sizes, black and white. Identified as Harriet Kimball, June 20, 1914; believed to be group in tower at Swope Park entry building, and woman dressed in period costume. Also includes 6 postcards primarily of scenes in Europe or America with one of woman in period costume. Also a "Christmas Greetings" card.

**Folder 14**

Two handwritten diaries/day books referred to as jottings that appear to have been kept by Josephine Heermans Greenwood. They are folded pieces of lined paper and not bound books. Some may contain newspaper clippings either loose or mounted that have been photocopied. This folder covers 1895-1896.

**Folder 15**

Three handwritten diaries/day books similar to Folder 14, apparently kept by Josephine Heermans [Greenwood]. Cover parts of the years 1896 – 1899. Journals are titled: "Ephemeria," "Wanderings," "Whittier Data."

**Folder 16**

Two handwritten diaries/day books similar to Folders 14,15, apparently kept by Josephine Heermans [Greenwood]. Covers parts of the years 1898-1903.

**Folder 17**

Two handwritten diaries/day books similar to Folders 14-16, apparently kept by Josephine Heermans [Greenwood]. Covers parts of the years 1902-1906. One is entitled "Poland Springs, 1906."

**Folder 18**

Three handwritten diaries/day books similar to Folders 14-17, apparently kept by Josephine Heermans [Greenwood]. Covers parts of the years 1907, 1916-17. Folder also contains a fourth handwritten book dealing with different subjects, n.d.

Processed by Special Collections Librarian Sara J. Nyman, May 2002.