

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

**COLLECTION REGISTER**

Name: **Longsdorff Straw, Zatae (1866-1955)** **MC 2002.2**

Materials: Papers (c1860-1952)

Volume: 5.5 linear feet (Document Boxes 1-3, Oversized Folders 1-2, Photograph Folders 1-45, Artifact Boxes 1-4, and 1 Oversized Artifact)

Donation: Gifts of Enid Straw (Mrs. Dean C. Chamberlin), 1968 and 1975

Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Zatae Leola Sturgis Longsdorff was born on April 16, 1866, the eldest daughter and the second of six children of William Henry and Lydia R. Haverstick Longsdorff of Centerville, Pennsylvania, a few miles southwest of Carlisle. William Henry, a physician, was a Dickinson graduate of the class of 1856. Zatae's brother, Harold, graduated from the College in 1879. Zatae, having been educated in area schools, entered Wellesley College in 1883. However, when Dickinson first allowed female students to attend in 1884, Zatae and her sister Hildegarde enrolled. Graduating with the class of 1887, the eldest Longsdorff girl became the first female graduate of the College; she obtained a master's degree *in cursu* from Dickinson in 1890. Sisters Hildegarde (class of 1888), Jessica (class of 1891), and Persis (class of 1894) all attended Dickinson in turn.

After graduation, Zatae pursued medical instruction at Women's Medical College in Philadelphia, earning her medical degree in 1890. She served a year as an intern at the New England Hospital for Women and Children, and then relocated to a Native American reservation in Blackfoot, Idaho where she became the resident physician for a short time.

Amos Gale Straw and Zatae Longsdorff were married November 12, 1891, shortly after she returned to the eastern U.S.; the couple settled in Manchester, New Hampshire. They had four children (Enid, Zatae Gale, David, Wayne), and also raised Gertrude Grey as their foster daughter. Longsdorff later resumed her medical practice at Elliot Hospital in Manchester. In addition to her thriving practice, she was very involved in the community as a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, the PTA, and the Daughters of the American Revolution. She would serve as state president of the American Legion Auxiliary for the year 1935-1936.

In her later years, Longsdorff became active in New Hampshire politics. In 1924, she was elected to the New Hampshire State House of Representatives. In 1926 she presided over the New Hampshire State Republican Convention and was elected to a second term in the state

House of Representatives. Serving on the Committee on Public Health, she became its chairperson during this second term; she also served on the Committee on Fisheries and Game, being an avid hunter and fisher herself. She ran unsuccessfully for a seat in the New Hampshire State Senate in 1928.

However, this high point in Longsdorff's public life was marred by personal tragedy. Her mother, Lydia Haverstick, died in 1921, having outlived her husband by 16 years. Amos Gale Straw died in 1926 after a long illness resulting from his surgical service in the First World War. In 1929, the youngest daughter, Zatae Gale, died shortly after graduating from Brown University, and a year later son Wayne drowned. Still, Zatae Longsdorff maintained her public profile and continued with her medical practice. Her daughter Enid graduated from Wellesley College in 1921, and in 1937 she married Dean Chamberlin. Son David continued to live in Manchester, and Gertrude remained at home with her foster mother.

Longsdorff ultimately became the first woman president of the Manchester (N.H.) Medical Association, an honor she received in 1923. In 1941, she was honored by the New Hampshire Medical Society for a half-century of service in the medical field. For her lifetime of accomplishments, Longsdorff was awarded an honorary doctor of science degree by her *alma mater* in 1937, the 50th anniversary of her graduation from Dickinson College.

Zatae Longsdorff Straw died on October 1, 1955 at her home in Manchester.

## COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Zatae Longsdorff Straw collection is housed in three document boxes, one oversized folder, four artifact boxes, and forty-five photograph folders. The materials in this collection are arranged into six series: Correspondence, Manuscripts, Miscellaneous, Scrapbooks, Photographs, and Artifacts. The majority of the materials in this collection are written about Zatae Longsdorff. However, the collection includes a large number of photographs of her and her family, as well as several scrapbooks highlighting her political and social careers. To avoid possible confusion with her daughter, Zatae Longsdorff Straw has been listed simply by her maiden name, Zatae Longsdorff, throughout the collection inventory.

The Correspondence series contains letters and telegrams received by Longsdorff on the occasion of her graduation from medical school and the receipt of her honorary degree from Dickinson College. These letters were written by family members, friends, and school officials; they have been arranged alphabetically by author and then chronologically. The honorary degree citation that is referred to in the letter from Fred Corson has been separated out and is housed within the Manuscripts series.

The Manuscripts series consists of unpublished materials by Zatae Longsdorff and her two daughters. The items written by Longsdorff include a journal for January and February 1874, the citation read at the conferring of her honorary degree and her remarks, and an undated poem. Also included in the series is a novel, "Lady Doctor," written by Enid Straw Chamberlin, which chronicles the life of her mother, and a bound volume of poems by Zatae Gale Straw. These items have been arranged by author and then chronologically.

The Miscellaneous series includes several printed items about Zatae Longsdorff as well as several postcards featuring Dickinson and the surrounding Carlisle area. A drawing of Native Americans that corresponds with items in the Artifacts series is housed within this series. A folder of ephemera contains calling cards and name tags of Zatae Longsdorff. An item of particular note is a 1952 copy of the Straws' marriage license. The materials in the

Miscellaneous series have been arranged chronologically, with ephemeral items (calling cards, airline baggage ticket, American Legion Auxiliary certificate, etc.) placed last. Two oversized items, Longsdorff's honorary degree diploma and a certificate from the New Hampshire Medical Society, have been designated as OC 2002.2 and are housed separately in an oversized folder.

The Scrapbooks series is comprised of four bound volumes of newspaper clippings and other miscellaneous materials which were compiled by Zatae Longsdorff and her daughters. The volumes have been arranged chronologically; any loose materials have been removed and are housed in folders following the volume from which they came. The first two scrapbooks feature materials regarding all aspects of Longsdorff's life, while the volume dated 1924-1930 deals mainly with her political career, and the fourth highlights her honorary degree from Dickinson.

The Photographs have been designated as PC 2002.2 and are separately housed within the Dickinson College Photograph Collection. The collection contains over fifty photographs, most of which are of Zatae Longsdorff herself. Also included in the series are photographs of the Carlisle Indian School and a tintype of Zatae Longsdorff's mother, Lydia Haverstick. The photographs have been arranged alphabetically by subject, and then chronologically. Two oversized photographs have been separated out and are housed with the oversized materials, designated OC 2002.2.

The Artifacts have been designated as AC 2002.2 and are housed within the College's artifact collection. These items include memorabilia from Longsdorff's days at Dickinson, such as her portable writing desk and the black dress she wore when she won the Pierson Prize for Oratory in 1886. The Pierson medal is included in the collection, as is an oversized portrait of Longsdorff wearing the dress. Items from the Fort Hall Reservation at which Longsdorff worked are also in the collection; these include moccasins, pouches, and strings of beads. The portrait of Longsdorff is framed and is housed outside of the collection with other framed objects.

## COLLECTION INVENTORY

### BOX 1 - MC 2002.2

#### CORRESPONDENCE

- Folder 01) Corson, Fred Pierce
  - Letter to Zatae Longsdorff – June 8, 1937
- Folder 02) [Dyke], Marjorie (Mrs. Robert Anderson)
  - Telegram to Zatae Longsdorff – c1937
- Folder 03) Longsdorff, Harold
  - Letter to Zatae Longsdorff – June 22, 1937
- Folder 04) Longsdorff, Persis (Mrs. Ernest Sipple)
  - Telegram to Zatae Longsdorff – c1937
- Folder 05) Marshall, Clara
  - Letter to Zatae Longsdorff – Mar. 8, 1890
  - Letter to Zatae Longsdorff – Sep. 24, 1890

## BOX 1 - MC 2002.2 (cont.)

### MANUSCRIPTS

- Longsdorff, Zatae  
Folder 06) Journal – Jan.-Feb. 1874  
Folder 07) Honorary degree citation  
Remarks upon receiving honorary degree – June 1937  
Folder 08) Poem, “These Are the Things I Prize” – undated  
Straw, Enid Constance (Mrs. Dean Chamberlin)  
Folder 09) "Lady Doctor" – 1922  
Straw, Zatae Gale  
Folder 10) Bound volume of poems dedicated to her mother – c1930

## BOX 2 - MC 2002.2

### MISCELLANEOUS

- Folder 01) Newspaper clippings – 1886-1937  
Folder 02) Crayon and pencil drawing of four Native Americans – c1890  
Folder 03) Postcards of Carlisle area – 1908-1911 (17)  
Postcards of Carlisle Indian School – 1908-1911 (5)  
Postcards of Dickinson College – 1908-1910 (9)  
Folder 04) “Medical Inspection of Schools” by Zatae Longsdorff,  
reprinted from *The American Practitioner* – Oct. 1912  
Folder 05) Printed leaflet, “Toast to Dr. John H. Gleason... Reply to Toast by Dr.  
Zatae Straw” – Dec. 13, 1916  
Folder 06) *The Granite Monthly*, article on American Legion Auxiliary – May 1923  
*The Granite Monthly*, article on Zatae Longsdorff – Jan. 1928  
Folder 07) Direct Primary Notification ticket – July 21, 1928  
Folder 08) Copy of marriage license of A. Straw and Z. Longsdorff – Sep. 10, 1952  
Folder 09) Ephemera

### SCRAPBOOKS

- Folder 10) Scrapbook – 1917-1922  
Folder 11) Scrapbook material – 1917-1922  
Folder 12) Scrapbook – 1922-1945  
Folder 13) Scrapbook material – 1922-1945

## BOX 3 - MC 2002.2

### SCRAPBOOKS

- Folder 01) Scrapbook – 1924-1930  
Folder 02) Scrapbook material – 1924-1930  
Folder 03) Scrapbook – 1937-1945  
Folder 04) Scrapbook material – 1937-1945

## OVERSIZED - OC 2002.2

### MISCELLANEOUS

- Folder 01) Honorary Degree Diploma – 1937
- New Hampshire Medical Society Certificate – 1941

### PHOTOGRAPHS

- Folder 02) Photograph of Zatae, mother, and children at WWI Victory Parade – 1918
- Photograph of Zatae Longsdorff – 1926

## PHOTOGRAPHS - PC 2002.2

### Carlisle Indian School

- Folder 01) Capt. Richard H. Pratt – c1890
- Folder 02) Campus buildings – c1890
- Folder 03) Richard H. Pratt with 12 Navajo students, 1882
- Folder 04) Same group of Navajo students (w/o Pratt) – 1883
- Folder 05) Group of 18 female students in uniform – c1885
- Folder 06) Wounded Yellow Robe, Timber Yellow Robe, and Henry Standing Bear,  
“taken upon their arrival” – 1883
- Folder 07) Same group three years later – 1886

### Grey, Gertrude

- Folder 08) Standing with skis – undated

### Haverstick, Lydia (Mrs. William Longsdorff)

- Folder 09) Tintype portrait – c1860

### Longsdorff, Harold

- Folder 10) Residence in Dickinson, PA – 1902

### Longsdorff, Hildegarde

- Folder 11) Portrait – c1873

### Longsdorff, Zatae

- Folder 12) Seated, with dog – c1866
- Folder 13) Portrait – c1873
- Folder 14) Portrait with Hildegarde – c1873
- Folder 15) Portrait in black moire dress – c1886 (2)
- Folder 16) Standing with Dickinson classmates – c1887
- Folder 17) Graduation portrait – 1887 (2)
- Folder 18) Bicycle outing – c1890
- Folder 19) Seated with sister Jessica and husband A. Gale Straw – c1891
- Folder 20) Full-length portrait – c1891
- Folder 21) With parents and husband – c1900
- Folder 22) After the birth of her daughter Enid – 1900
- Folder 23) With Enid in nursery – 1900
- Folder 24) Seated on porch with A. Gale and Enid – 1900
- Folder 25) In carriage with Enid – c1904
- Folder 26) Formal portrait with Enid – 1904 (2)
- Folder 27) Portrait in dress with striped bodice – c1906 (3)
- Folder 28) With her mother and daughters Enid and Zatae Gale – c1906
- Folder 29) Home in Manchester, NH – 1910

## PHOTOGRAPHS - PC 2002.2

### Longsdorff, Zatae (cont.)

- Folder 30) In American Legion uniform with son David – c1918
- Folder 31) Feeding the chickens – c1920
- Folder 32) On horseback – c1920
- Folder 33) Portrait, wearing large brooch – 1926 (3)
- Folder 34) Portrait, wearing long string of pearls – c1930
- Folder 35) Portrait, with glasses and pearls – c1930
- Folder 36) Portrait in American Legion Auxiliary uniform - c1930
- Folder 37) In front of Alumni Gym with brother Harold – 1937
- Folder 38) With Josephine Meredith – 1937
- Folder 39) In sundress and hat – 1937
- Folder 40) With Dickinson President Corson and Josephine Meredith – 1937
- Folder 41) With granddaughter Martha – 1941

### Straw, Amos Gale

- Folder 42) Portrait – c1891
- Folder 43) Portrait in uniform – c1917
- Folder 44) Full-length portrait in uniform – c1917

### Straw, Zatae Gale

- Folder 45) Portrait – c1929

## ARTIFACT BOX 1 - AC 2002.2

### Haverstick, Lydia (Mrs. William Longsdorff)

- Item 01) Black cape – undated

### Longsdorff, Zatae

- Item 02) Black moire dress worn during Oratorical contest – 1886
- Item 03) Academic hood worn at reception of honorary degree – 1937

## ARTIFACT BOX 2 - AC 2002.2

### Longsdorff, Zatae (cont.)

- Item 01) Pierson Prize medal for Oratory – 1886
- Item 02) Mother-of-Pearl card case – 1887
- Item 03) New Hampshire Medical Society medal – 1941
- Item 04) Bible – 1888
- Item 05) Embroidered Handkerchief – c1880

## ARTIFACT BOX 3 - AC 2002.2

### Longsdorff, Zatae (cont.)

- Item 01) Portable wooden writing desk – c1885

## **ARTIFACT BOX 4 - AC 2002.2**

### Fort Hall Reservation for Shoshone Indians

- Item 01) Pair of large shell earrings – c1890
- Item 02) Blue and Red Beaded Moccasins – c1890
- Item 03) Pair of beaded moccasins – c1890
- Item 04) Floral Design Beaded Moccasins – c1890
- Item 05) Beaded sheath – c1890
- Item 06) Beaded sheath, with bells – c1890
- Item 07) Two beaded arm or leg bands – c1890
- Item 08) Small beaded pouch – c1890
- Item 09) Small beaded drawstring pouch – c1890
- Item 10) Small beaded drawstring pouch – c1890
- Item 11) Small toy cradleboard – c1890
- Item 12) Small toy cradleboard with doll – c1890
- Item 13) Bone bracelet – c1890
- Item 14) Beaded leather bands – c1890
- Item 15) Strings of beads – c1890
- Item 16) Large green, white and red beaded pouch with handle – c1890
- Item 17) Small dark blue beaded pouch – c1890

## **OVERSIZED ARTIFACT - AC 2002.2**

### Longsdorff, Zatae

- Item 01) Framed photographic portrait, in black moire dress – 1886

This collection register was prepared by Michele M. Tourney, February 2002.