

Guide to the Douglass family papers, 1894-1970

Summary Information

Collection No.:	MS 2020-011
Title:	Douglass family papers
Inclusive Dates:	1894-1970
Author:	Carolyn Friedrich & Margaret Deitzer, revised by Nancy Martin in 2025
Repository:	Peters Township Public Library Archives 616 East McMurray Road McMurray, PA 15317
Creator:	Elizabeth Douglass Waite
Extent:	1 box (18 folders)
Language of materials:	All materials are in English.
Abstract:	The Douglass family papers include documents and photographs relating to the student and teaching careers of two generations of the Himmeger/Douglass family of Peters Township, the family's membership in the Peters Creek United Presbyterian church, and rationing requirements during World War II.

Biography/History

Elizabeth "Lizzie" Himmeger Douglass (1876-1938) attended Peters Township schools as a child. She later attended Jefferson Academy in Canonsburg, PA where she studied to become a teacher. Lizzie taught at the Wright and Thompsonville Schools in Peters Township. Her sister, Sarah "Sadie" Himmeger (1884-1966), also taught in the township's one-room schools, including Bower Hill and McMurray.

In 1901, Lizzie married George Wilson Douglass(1878-1963). The couple had six children together. Five of the six children – Milton (born 1902), Minnie (born 1904), Sarah “Elizabeth” (born 1907), Bella (born 1913), and George Jr. (born 1917) - became teachers. Another son – Homer (born 1912) - became a diesel mechanic.

The family attended Peters Creek United Presbyterian Church.

Scope and Content Note

The Douglass family papers document the student and teaching careers of two generations of the Himmeger/Douglass family in Peters Township, the family’s membership in the Peters Creek United Presbyterian Church, and rationing requirements during World War II. Papers include school report cards, class photographs, and ration books and stamps accumulated by members of the Douglass family.

Arrangement

The papers are arranged in 4 series:

- Series I. Academic papers, 1894-1928
- Series II. Peters Creek United Presbyterian Church papers, 1907-1970
- Series III. World War II ration books and stamps, 1940s
- Series IV. Miscellaneous papers, early 1900s-1954

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions:

Elizabeth Douglass’s “Character Book” in Series I is closed for preservation. Please use the digital copy of the book available through PA Photos & Documents.

Finding Aids:

Folder lists are available for each series. They can be found in the “Contents List” section of this guide.

Acquisition Information:

The papers were donated to the Archives by sisters Nancy Waite-Kahn and Elizabeth Waite Prine on August 16, 2019.

Custodial History:

The papers passed from Lizzie Himmeger Douglass to her daughter Elizabeth Douglass Waite and then to her daughters, Nancy and Elizabeth, who donated them to the Archives.

Accruals Note:

No further accruals are expected.

Preferred Citation:

Peters Township Public Library Archives, MS 2020-011 Douglass family papers

Processing Information:

This collection was arranged and described by Carolyn Friedrich and Margaret Dietzer in July 2020 and revised by Nancy Martin in 2025.

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Related Materials:

- MS 2022-087 Peters Township School District collection

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Contents List

Series I.	Academic papers, 1894-1928
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Series Extent: 13 folders

Series Scope and Content Note: Series consists of documents and photographs of members of two generations of the Himmeger/Douglass family as both students and teachers in Peters Township schools.

Box 1	Folder title	Dates
Folder 1	Sarah "Sadie" Himmeger's report cards from her time as a student at Thompsonville School (2 report cards)	1894-1895, 1900

Folder 2	Elizabeth “Lizzie” Himmeger’s “Memoranda” notebook containing notes taken as a student at Jefferson Academy in Canonsburg	circa 1896
Folder 3	Letter of recommendation by R. H. Meloy, principal of Jefferson Academy, written on behalf of Lizzie Himmeger	1896
Folder 4	Lizzie Himmeger’s account of the closing of her first term as teacher at Wright’s School	1897
Folder 5	Announcement of Bower Hill Summer Normal School	circa 1902
Folder 6	Photographs of teacher Sadie Himmeger and her students at McMurray School	circa 1910s
Folder 7	Photograph of teacher Sadie Himmeger and her students at Bower Hill School	1914
Folder 8	Milton Douglass’s McMurray School souvenir booklet from his teacher Jean McMurray	1915
Folder 9	Photograph of the teacher and students of McMurray School including Minnie and Sarah “Elizabeth” Douglass	1915-1916
Folder 10	Documents relating to Milton Douglass’s graduation from Peters Township High School	1918
Folder 11	Elizabeth Douglass’s “Character Book” containing information about her classmates at Peters Township High School	1921-1924
Folder 12	Photographs of the students of Peters Township High School and the graduating class of 1922, including Minnie Douglass, and their teacher Mr. Harold K. Hess (3 photographs)	circa 1922
Folder 13	Photograph (2 copies) of teacher Elizabeth Douglass and her students at Pleasant Valley School	1927-1928

Series II. Peters Creek United Presbyterian Church papers, 1907-1970

Series Extent: 2 folders

Series Scope and Content Note: Series consists of documents and one photograph pertaining to the Douglass family’s membership in Peters Creek United Presbyterian Church.

Box 1	Folder title	Dates
Folder 14	Church documents relating to Sarah “Elizabeth” Douglass’s birth, birthdays and religious education	1907-1910s
Folder 15	Papers relating to the Douglass family’s membership in Peters Creek United Presbyterian Church	late 1950s-1970

Series III. World War II ration books and stamps, 1940s

Series Extent: 1 folder

Series Scope and Content Note: Series consists of World War II ration books and stamps belonging to members of the Douglass family.

Box 1	Folder title	Dates
Folder 16	World War II ration books and stamps belonging to members of the Douglass family	1940s

Series IV. Miscellaneous papers, early 1900s-1954

Series Extent: 2 folders

Series Scope and Content Note: Series consists of 4 miscellaneous photographs belonging to the Douglass family and George Wilson Douglass Senior's motor vehicle registration and operator's license from the 1950s.

Box 1	Folder title	Dates
Folder 17	Miscellaneous photographs belonging to the Douglass family: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emily and Martha McMurray, early 1900s • "Peters High Girls at Milton Dam", early 1900s • Junior Farm Women, circa 1925 • Farm Women gathering, undated 	1900s
Folder 18	George Wilson Douglass Sr.'s motor vehicle registration, 1952 and operator's license, 1954	1952, 1954