

**Finding Aid to the
William C. Hunter Papers**

Hunter, William C., 1882-1973

William C. Hunter papers, 1905-1961

.75 linear feet

Record Group 11.33.3

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OVERVIEW

Access: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the University Archives.

Provenance: Records transferred to University Archives

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Citation: [Identification of item]. William C. Hunter papers, University Archives, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

BIOGRAPHY

William Columbus Hunter was born on a farm in Edgar County, Illinois on April 5 1882. He pursued a degree in history at the University of Illinois, but transferred to Princeton University to complete his A.B. in 1905. He received his a M.A. from Harvard in 1911, and returned to Princeton for his Ph D, which he finished in 1923. He taught high school in Winchester and Linton Indiana from 1906-1913, moving on to the collegiate level at Ellsworth College (IA), Geneva College (PA), Muskingum College (OH) until 1923, when he joined North Dakota Agricultural College as the Chairman of the Social Science Department at NDSU. In 1949 he also served as Acting Dean of the School of Applied Arts and Sciences.

He was a professor and administrator at NDSU for 29 years before retiring in 1952, as Professor Emeritus of History. Along with teaching history and political science, Hunter was involved in many different student affairs; including advising Blue Key National Honor Society, Phi Kappa

Phi, and Sigma Chi. In addition he was a member of the American Association of University Professors, the American Historical Society, and the National Education Association. On the local level, he was involved with the Fargo Rotary and the Red River Valley Historical Society.

After his retirement, he was appointed Archivist for the Institute for Regional Studies in 1953. Hunter published "Presbyterianism in North Dakota" in 1959, a booklet for Presbyterian synods in North Dakota, and *Beacon across the Prairie* in 1961 which told the history of NDAC as a land grant college and its journey to becoming NDSU.

He died in Bethany homes in 1973 at the age of 91.

SCOPE & CONTENT

This is an artificially created collection pulled together from folders of/about Dr. Hunter that were found in the Institute for Regional Studies.

These papers have been broken down into nine series and then include: Writings; Administration; History Department Hiring; Correspondence; Students and Enrollment; Organizations; NDSU Career; Prior Employment; and Princeton University

The Writings series includes Hunter's major writings. His dissertation, drafts of his autobiography, writings in *Presbyterianism in North Dakota*, and publications about his work.

The Administration series is a large series that includes papers from Hunter's time as Chairman of the Social Science department and History department. There are memos to and from Hunter, budget information from monthly to yearly, salary estimations for staff and faculty, receipts and other various paperwork that came to and from the office of Hunter.

History Department Hiring is a series full of applications, letters of recommendations, requests, and discussion about hiring new professors and moving them throughout the department.

The Correspondence series includes letters back and forth from many different individuals that are both inside and outside the university.

The Students and Enrollment series includes student request for employment in the history project and various other projects as well as the enrollment statistics and class scheduling. Also included is a restricted folder that includes a student paper about Hunter.

The Organizations series includes papers from all the organizations and community programs Hunter was involved in. There is an assortment of meeting minutes, awards and issues that come about throughout these papers. There are also papers from his involvement in inaugurations of college presidents, as well as papers from the inauguration of Harry S. Truman.

The NDAC Career series are papers that have to do with the changes in Hunter's career at NDSU including papers requesting sabbatical, salary discussions, and papers dealing with his request for retirement standards.

The Prior Employment series include leftover papers and programs from previous employers, also there are social events, and bulletins papers.

The Princeton series includes Hunters papers from his attendance at the Princeton Bicentennial celebration, and also honors booklets and pamphlets from the University.

Box 1

1 Finding Aid

Writings

- 2 *The Commercial Policy of New Jersey Under the Confederation 1783-1789*. Ph D. dissertation - 1922)
- 3 *Presbyterianism in North Dakota* - written drafts, correspondence - 1959
- 4 Drafts of "Has the Decline in Agriculture been a Chief Cause of the Fall of Nations?" - c.1932
- 5 Autobiography and Biographical information (1956)
- 6 *Beacon across the Prairie* Publications and Interest (1950-1961)
- 7 Radio Speeches and Publications (1925)

Administration

- 8 Yearly Budget Reports for the History Department (1924-1948)
- 9 Monthly Budget Reports for the History Department (1927-1938)
- 10 Monthly Budget Reports for the Social Science Department (1930-1949)
- 11 Salaries for the History Department (1925-1952)
- 12 Receipts from the History Department (1923-1937)
- 13 Inventory from the History Department (1923-1941)
- 14 Conference Expenses (1924-1941)
- 15 Budget Correspondents & Requests (1926-1951)
- 16 Staff Memo's (1931-1936)

History Department Hiring

- 17 Charles A. Severinson (1928)
- 18 John Lucas Jr. (1926-1931)
- 19 C. A. Davis (1926-1930)
- 20 Employment Candidates (1924- 1951)
- 21 Movement in Staff in the History Department (1946-1950)

Correspondence

- 22 University Correspondents (1937-1954)
- 23 Outside Correspondents (1924-1954)

Students and Enrollment

- 24 History Enrollment Statistics (1924-1934)
- 25 History Course Schedules (1929-1950)
- 26 Student Projects (1934, 1936)

- 27 Student Paper Biography on William C. Hunter (Paper is Restricted. Copyright resides with creator)

Organizations/ Community Involvement

- 28 Blue Key (1948)
29 Fraternity Involvement (1925-1951)

BOX 2

- 1 Religion and Life Conferences (1940)
2 Religious Emphasis Week (1943-1948)
3 Meeting Minutes (no date)
4 Inauguration of University Presidents (1938-1955)
5 Inauguration of Harry S. Truman (1949)
6 Organizations (1932-1969)
7 Pioneer Historian Award Ceremony Responses (1969)

NDSU Career

- 8 Hiring Process of Hunter (1923)
9 Sabbatical (1948-1949)
10 Preparations for Retirement (1942-1952)

Prior Employment

- 11 Social Events/ Bulletins from previous Employers (1914-1923)

Princeton

- 12 Princeton Honors Booklet and Pamphlets (1922-1931)
13 Princeton Bicentennial Celebration (1946-1947)

Separations (The following have be moved to Map Case Drawer #, Folder #):

Awards:

- Sigma Chi- Life Loyal Sig(1934)
Blue Key Fraternity- Master Freshman (1937)
Blue Key Fraternity- Doctor of Service (1940)

Diplomas:

- Princeton- A.B. (1905)
Harvard- M.A. (1911)
Princeton- Ph D. (1922)

Memberships:

- Phi Gamma Mu (1926)
Phi Kappa Phi (1927)
American Historical Association (1927)
American Arbitration Association (1947)