



## Guide to the Ruth Earline Whittier Papers, 1917-1984

### Administrative Information

**Title and Dates:**

Ruth Earline Whittier Papers, 1917-1984

**Repository:**

New Hampshire Historical Society  
30 Park Street  
Concord, NH 03301  
603-228-6688  
<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

**Collection Number:**

1991.001

**Author of Finding Aid:**

Katelynn Vance

**Creator:**

Ruth Earline Whittier, 1903-1991

**Language:**

The materials in this collection are in English.

**Extent:**

2 Boxes

**Abstract:**

The Ruth Earline Whittier Papers consists of correspondence, as well as articles writing by Whittier. Also, included are materials relating to Whittier's time at the New Hampshire State Library. Other items in the collection focus on Whittier's interest in doll collecting and music.

## Access and Use

### **Acquisition Information and Provenance:**

Purchased by the New Hampshire Historical Society, January 1991.

### **Processing Information:**

The finding aid was updated by Katelynn Vance in October 2014. This finding aid follows the standards set-forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

### **Access Restrictions:**

Available for research.

### **Location:**

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

### **Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:**

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Researchers are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

### **Preferred Citation:**

Item title, Ruth Earline Whittier Papers, 1991.001. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date Accessed.

## Collection Overview

### **Biographical Information/ Administrative Information:**

Ruth E. Whittier was the daughter of Kate Diamond (of Danbury) and John E. Whittier. John E. Whittier was the manager of the Boston Store in Concord, NH. She had one sister Gladys D. (Mrs. Arthur) Read of Keene, NH.

Ruth Whittier was a state employee for 45 years. She worked at the Department of Motor Vehicles from 1925-1931 and then at the New Hampshire State Library for the next 38 years. She was active in the establishment of the State Library bookmobile.

Ms. Whittier had a broad range of interests including art, music, and doll collecting. She was the founder and president of the Granite State Dolls Club, and by 1964, owned 600 foreign and antique dolls. She was an active member of the Business & Professional Women's Club and the Merrimack Valley Arts and Crafts Club.

### **Collection Scope and Content Note:**

The Ruth E. Whittier Papers are composed of correspondence, published and non-published works, items related to her library career, items related to her interest in music, and other miscellaneous items. Much of Whittier's correspondence is of routine nature, but there are letters from well known figures such as Dorothy Vaughn (regarding her

New Hampshire Map, 1931), Sally Bridges (1934 and note regarding her death in 1938), Mary Louise Hancock (1950), Harry May, made an alter set from the Whittier maple, Norman Vincent Peale (1961), author Elizabeth Yates McGreal (1982), Gordon Humphrey (1984), artist Herbert Waters (Box 1, Folder 15). The collection also includes some of Whittier's publications. There are also items having to do with Whittier's career in the State Library, some related to her involvement with the State Library Bookmobile. Whittier was also interested in music and musicians and the collection reflects that interest, with material on composers and music teachers, especially concerning New Hampshire women.

**Arrangement:**

Series I. Personal Papers

Series II. Writings and Articles

Series III. Library

Series IV. Music

Series V. Miscellaneous

Contents List

**Box 1**

**Series I.** Personal Papers, 1925-1987

**Extent:** 1 box

**Scope and Content:** Personal papers of Whittier include her school papers, essays, and poetry as an autograph book. There is also a diary dated 1967. Correspondents include Dorothy Vaughn (regarding her New Hampshire Map, 1931), Sally Bridges (1934 and note regarding her death in 1938), Mary Louise Hancock (1950), Harry May, made an alter set from the Whittier maple, Norman Vincent Peale (1961), author Elizabeth Yates McGreal (1982), Gordon Humphrey (1984), artist Herbert Waters (Box 1, Folder 15). Ruth Whittier was a member of an "artistic covers club." This group of people from all over the United States sent each other envelopes of which they had done original art work, drawings, paintings, block prints, etc. There are many of the covers she received in the collection.

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Folder 1  | Personal Papers                          |
| Folder 2  | School Writing                           |
| Folder 3  | School Papers                            |
| Folder 4  | School Poetry                            |
| Folder 5  | Autograph Book, 1925-1926<br>Diary, 1967 |
| Folder 6  | Correspondence, 1917-1929                |
| Folder 7  | Correspondence, 1930-1934                |
| Folder 8  | Correspondence, 1935-1939                |
| Folder 9  | Correspondence, 1940s                    |
| Folder 10 | Correspondence, 1950s                    |
| Folder 11 | Correspondence, 1960s                    |
| Folder 12 | Correspondence, 1970s                    |

- Folder 13 Correspondence, 1980-1987
- Folder 14 Correspondence, undated
- Folder 15 Letters from Herbert Waters and other New Hampshire Artists
- Folder 16 Artistic Cover Club Covers
- Folder 17 Artistic Cover Club Letters

**Box 2**

**Series II.** Writings and Articles, 1920-1972

**Extent:** 14 folders

**Scope and Content:** Writings and articles contains Whittier's various publications.

- Folder 1 Buttermilk to Chicken, Country & City, Yankess, etc.
- Folder 2 Christmas, Tragedy of North Chichester, Concord Flood, 1936
- Folder 3 Vacations
- Folder 4-7 Articles submitted, 1923-1932, 1936
- Folder 8 We Go Motoring, 1936
- Folder 9 Articles submitted, 1940s
- Folder 10 Martha Hilton Wentworth, 1963
- Folder 11 Lace Trimmed Underwear, 1972
- Folder 12 Gentleman's Use of Lace
- Folder 13 Skits
- Folder 14 Library Play, Trustees Meeting, 1938

**Series III.** Library

**Extent:** 12 folders

**Scope and Content:** Series three contains materials related to Whittier's career as state librarian. She was involved in the State Library Bookmobile program and designed the bookmobile logo. There are materials pertaining to New Hampshire State Library employees Catherine Pratt and Grace Blanchard in Box 2, Folders 22-23.

- Folder 15 New Hampshire State Library, correspondence, 1929-1984
- Folder 16 Bookmobile
- Folder 17 History of the New Hampshire Library Commission
- Folder 18-19 Library Articles, 1938-1939
- Folder 20 Transcript of Radio Broadcast
- Folder 21 Personnel Records of Ruth Earline Whittier
- Folder 22 Catherine Pratt
- Folder 23 Grace Blanchard
- Folder 24-25 State Employees Association & Committees
- Folder 26 Miscellaneous

**Series IV.** Music

**Extent:** 10 folders

**Scope and Content:** Series four contains materials related to Whittier's interests in music, specifically New Hampshire music and musicians. Box 2, Folder 35 contains materials referring to Helen Cramm, composer and music teacher from Pembroke, NH. Ms. Whittier's interest in dolls and doll collecting is also reflected in Box 2, Folders 42-43. Box 2, Folder 38 contains a list of New Hampshire Women compiled by Ms. Whittier.

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Folder 27 | Correspondence, 1929-1933                                    |
| Folder 28 | Correspondence, 1935-1943                                    |
| Folder 29 | Memoranda and notes for bibliography                         |
| Folder 30 | New Hampshire Music bibliography                             |
| Folder 31 | Program, New Hampshire musicians                             |
| Folder 32 | Articles   |
| Folder 33 | New England Women in Music, bibliography                     |
| Folder 34 | New Hampshire musicians, reprint from <i>Granite Monthly</i> |
| Folder 35 | Helen Cramm  |
| Folder 36 | Printed Items  |

#### **Series V. Miscellaneous**

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Folder 37 | Trip to Canada                           |
| Folder 38 | List of New Hampshire Women              |
| Folder 39 | Concord High, class of 1921              |
| Folder 40 | Concord High, Grace Weston Memorial Fund |
| Folder 41 | Certificates                             |
| Folder 42 | Dolls, autograph book                    |
| Folder 43 | Dolls, correspondence                    |

#### **Separated Materials:**

Original artwork by Hebert Waters and Ruth Whittier, NHHS Museum Collection  
Photographs of the State Library Bookmobile, NHHS Photograph Collection

#### **Subject Terms**

#### **People:**

Blanchard, Grace  
Bridges, Sally, - 1938  
Cramm, H. L. (Helen L.)  
Hancock, Mary Louise, 1920 –  
Humphrey, Gordon J., 1940 -  
May, Harry  
McGreal, Elizabeth Yates, 1905-2001  
Peale, Norman Vincent, 1898-1993  
Pratt, Catherine  
Vaughn, Dorothy M., 1904-2004  
Waters, Herbert Odgen, 1903-1996

Whittier, Ruth Earline, 1903-1991

**Organizations:**

New Hampshire State Library

**Subjects:**

Author

Musicians

Music

Libraries

Women

Dolls – Collectors and collecting

Flood, Concord, NH, 1936

**Locations:**

Concord, NH

New Hampshire

**Occupations:**

Author

Librarians