

Collection #
P 0708

**MAY WRIGHT SEWALL
ADDITION, CA. 1902–1905**

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Processed by

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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 photograph folder, 2 envelopes 4x5 acetate negatives

COLLECTION DATES: ca. 1902–1905

PROVENANCE: Mrs. George Rose, Indianapolis, Indiana

RESTRICTIONS: Negatives must be requested in advance and may be viewed by appointment only and with the assistance of library staff.

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: May Wright Sewall, SC2991/OM0534; *May Wright Sewall, Avowed Feminist*, by Hester Anne Hale, BV 2638; Boomhower, Ray. *But I do Clamor: May Wright Sewall, a life, 1844–1920*, JK1899.S48 B65 2001

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1983.0335

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

May Wright Sewall (1844–1920), feminist, educator, and lecturer, was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She was the daughter of Philander W. Wright, a teacher, and Mary W. Wright. In 1866, she earned a bachelor's degree and in 1868 a master's degree from North Western Female College. She taught in various places in the Midwest.

In 1872, she married Edwin W. Thompson and moved with him to Indianapolis. He died in 1875. She became interested in women's suffrage and attended a national convention in 1878. In 1880, she married Theodore Lovett Sewall, then head of a Boys' Classical School in Indianapolis. With him she founded and then headed the Girls' Classical School, which was for many years one of the three leading girls' schools in Indianapolis. Mrs. Sewall was a charter member of the Art Association of Indianapolis, the Propylaeum, and the Contemporary Club. Through her life she assisted in campaigns for female suffrage in various Midwestern states.

Beginning in the 1890s, she carried her feminist interests further abroad and was elected president of the National Congress of Women in 1891 and of the International Congress of Women in 1899. She combined this activity with working for peace. In 1904, she became chairman of the ICW standing committee on peace and arbitration, and in 1915, she chaired an Organized Conference of Women Workers to Promote Peace. That same year, she sailed on the *Oscar II* as a member of Henry Ford's Peace Expedition.

In 1907, she sold the Girls' Classical School to Anna Weaver but was disappointed at the amount she received from the sale. Henceforward, she depended for income mainly on lecturing, women's rights, peace and arbitration, and psychic research. This last subject had been one of her interests since the 1880s. In 1920, she wrote a book on her psychic experiences, *Neither Dead Nor Sleeping*. She also wrote books on her dual passions of women's rights and peace, titled *The Higher Education of Women*, *The Women's Suffrage Movement in Indiana*, and *Women, World War and Permanent Peace*.

Sources:

Hale Hester Anne. *May Wright Sewall, Avowed Feminist*, 1992—typescript (BV 2638).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This addition to the May Wright Sewall collection contains several black and white photographs and two negatives featuring May. All photographs are copies of originals.

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May Wright Sewall Portrait, n.d.

May Wright Sewall, ca. 1902

Officers of the International and National Council of Women, Photocopy, 1904

Art Institute Ground Breaking, ca. 1905

May Wright Sewall, ca. 1902

Art Institute Ground Breaking, ca. 1905

CONTAINER

Photographs,
Folder 1 of 1

Cold Storage:
4 x 5 Acetate Negatives:
Envelope 1 of 2

Cold Storage:
4 x 5 Acetate Negatives:
Envelope 2 of 2