



Guide to the Belmont Mercer Farley Papers, 1787-1965, 2015

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Table of Contents

Summary	3
Background	4
Administrative Information	5
Names and Subjects	5
Collection Inventory	6
Correspondence, 1901-1965	6
Genealogical, 1930-1959	6
Personal, 1901-1965	7
Financial and Legal Papers	7
Subject Files	7
Genealogy	8
Printed Material	9
Professional Papers	9

Summary

Collection Title:

Belmont Mercer Farley papers, 1787-1965, 2015

Creator:

Farley, Belmont Mercer

Abstract:

Educator from Washington, D.C. Professional papers concern academic freedom, educational television, reading and illiteracy, rural education, attacks on textbooks, federal aid to education, school construction, and strikes. Also discussed are the Ford Foundation, American anti-communist sentiment, peace and war, the U.S. military, and the atomic bomb. There is extensive material on the National Education Association, particularly on public relations and the advent of American educational broadcasting. Also included are Farley's articles, addresses, and radio program scripts, all of which regard U.S. public schools, and material pertaining to educational organization conventions that Farley attended. Personal papers chiefly consist of letters on family genealogy, with some information on public education in Missouri and California, and detailed notes and a self-published 381-page book on the family genealogy, which includes many other families in addition to the Farleys and Mercers.

Extent:

27.0 Linear Feet
Approximately 19,767 Items

Physical Location:

For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Language:

English

Language:

Material in English

Collection ID:

RL.00380

Permalink:

<http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/farleybelmontmercer/>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Belmont Mercer Farley Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Background

Scope and Content

Belmont Farley's professional papers span his career as an educator, author, and staff member with the National Education Association, and concern academic freedom, educational television, reading and illiteracy, rural education, attacks on textbooks, federal aid to education, school construction, and strikes. Also discussed are the Ford Foundation, American anti-communist sentiment, peace and war, the U.S. military, and the atomic bomb. There is extensive material on the National Education Association, particularly on public relations and the advent of American educational broadcasting. Also included are Farley's articles, addresses, and radio program scripts, all of which regard U.S. public schools, and material pertaining to educational organization conventions that Farley attended.

Personal papers chiefly consist of letters exchanged between Farley and family members on family genealogy, with some information on public education in Missouri and California. There are also detailed notes and a self-published 381-page genealogy of the Farley-Mercer families, which stretches from Pennsylvania, Maryland, North Carolina, Missouri, and other states, and offers detailed information on the Musser, Metzgar, Gosser, Greenlee, Youngs, Guarco, Dyer, Spangler, Cleland, Carr (Kerr), and Dinsmore families. This book was published in 1932, and updated and republished by Farley's son Thomas Farley in 2015.

Biographical/Historical

Belmont Mercer Farley (1891-1975) was born in Missouri and began his career as a teacher and school superintendent. He then joined the Washington, D.C.-based National Education Association, working from 1929 until his retirement in 1956 in the divisions of NEA publications and public relations. He was especially active on behalf of educational broadcasting during FCC hearings in the early 1950s. In the 1920s, he researched the history of the Farley-Mercer families back to the 18th century, publishing a genealogy in 1932, which was updated and republished by his son in 2015. Farley Mercer died in April 1975.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The Belmont Mercer Farley Papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a purchase in 1968 and gift in 2016.

Processing Information

Processed by Rubenstein Library staff.

Encoded by Ted Holt and Paula Jeannet, May 2008.

Accessions described in this collection guide: 1968 and 2016-0252.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Academic freedom -- United States
- Anti-communist movements -- United States

- Education -- United States
- Education -- Political aspects -- United States
- Educators -- Correspondence
- Educators -- United States
- Federal aid to education
- Literacy -- United States
- Maryland -- Genealogy
- Missouri -- Genealogy
- North Carolina -- Genealogy
- Pennsylvania -- Genealogy
- Scrapbooks
- National Educational Association (U.S.)
- Farley family
- Mercer family

Collection Inventory

Correspondence, 1901-1965

Physical Description: 15 boxes

Scope and Contents

Farley's professional correspondence contains letters from school superintendents as well as college professors and presidents, such as Rollo G. Reynolds, Fred Engelhardt, Uel W. Lamkin, Florence Hale, Thomas W. Nadal, Willis A. Sutton, and Eldo L. Hendricks. Persons prominent in the National Education Association, such as Willard E. Givens and William G. Carr, also corresponded with Farley, as well as the editors Bernard L. Johnson and Frank A. Weld; the Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission Frieda B. Hennock; George H. Adams, a newspaper reporter; and Franklin D. Roosevelt's son James.

Since Farley kept in close touch with relatives, there are a large number of family letters in the personal correspondence, the bulk of which begins in the 1920s. His brother Paul's letters contain some information on public education in Missouri and California.

Genealogical, 1930-1959

1930-1934	Box 1
1935-1941	Box 2
1942-1959	Box 3

Personal, 1901-1965

1901-1921	Box 3
1922-1931 July	Box 4
1931 Aug.-1934 Aug.	Box 5
1935-1940	Box 6
1941-1943	Box 7
1944-1948	Box 8
1949-1953	Box 9
1954-1956 Aug.	Box 10
1956 Sept.-1959 June	Box 11
1959 July-1961	Box 12
1962-1965	Box 13
Professional, 1925-1936	Box 14
Professional, 1937-1959	Box 15

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Financial and Legal Papers

Physical Description: 3 boxes

Legal Papers	Box 15-16
Financial Papers	Box 17

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Subject Files

Physical Description: 20 boxes

Scope and Contents

Organized in original alphabetical file order.

A-Annual Reports	Box 17
Anti-Federal Aid to Education-Aviation	Box 18
B-Cartoons	Box 19
Church-Communism Charges	Box 20
Conference-Education	Box 21
Education-Freedom	Box 22
Friends-H	Box 23
I-JCET	Box 24
JCET-Minneapolis	Box 25
Miscellaneous-Missouri	Box 26
Missouri-Opposition	Box 27
Outline-Public	Box 28
Public-Quotation	Box 29
Reading-Russian	Box 30
S-Scrapbook	Box 31
Sears-Teacher	Box 32
Teacher-Tributes	Box 33
U-University	Box 34
University-V	Box 35
W-Z	Box 36

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Genealogy

Physical Description: 3 boxes

Genealogical materials Box 39-41

Physical Description: 3 boxes

Farley-Mercer family records, by Belmont Farley, 1932, updated by Thomas Farley, 2015 Box 69

Physical Description: 1 volume, 381 pages

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Printed Material

Physical Description: 3 boxes

Clippings Box 18

Printed Material Box 39-40

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Professional Papers

Physical Description: 29 boxes

Dissertation manuscript Box 40

Addresses Box 41

Writings Box 41

Press releases Box 42

Our American Schools, draft Box 42

Memoirs of a Journey, Vol. II Box 43

Volumes Box 43

Meetings and reunions Box 44

Articles and pamphlets Box 45

Meetings Box 45-46

Meetings and conferences, Washington D.C. Box 47

Meetings and conferences	Box 48
Articles and addresses	Box 48
Conventions	Box 49-51
Articles and addresses	Box 51-67
Scrapbook, 1937	Volume F:806
Volume: dissertation	Box 68
Oversize items	Oversize-folder OF1

Scope and Contents note

Consists of black-and-white photographs; certificate for lifetime membership in the National Education Association; elementary education teaching certificate; and a diploma from Taylor University.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)