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3-27-2018

## A. S. Harding Papers

SDSU Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M. Briggs Library

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# A. S. Harding Papers

## Finding Aid

South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections  
Briggs Library (SBL) Room 241 Box 2114  
1300 North Campus Drive  
Brookings, SD 57007  
Phone: 605-688-5094  
Email: [arcrefs@sdstate.edu](mailto:arcrefs@sdstate.edu)

## Collection Summary

### *Identifier*

UA 53.5

### *Title*

A. S. Harding Papers

### *Creator*

A.S. (Albert Spencer) Harding

### *Dates*

1889-1949

### *Extent*

0.63 linear feet -- 1 document case, 1 small document case

### *Language*

English

### *Repository*

South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Hilton  
M. Briggs Library, Brookings, South Dakota.

### *Access note*

This collection is open to researchers without restrictions. The materials in the Archives do not circulate and may be used in-house only.

### *Preferred Citation*

*Name of item.* A.S. Harding Papers. UA 53.5. South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M .Briggs Library, Brookings, South Dakota.

### *Abstract*

A.S. Harding was professor and head of the history and political sciences department at SDSC. He taught courses in history, political science, sociology, and economics. This collection consists mostly of material compiled by Harding while researching the history of South Dakota State University. Includes correspondence, research notes and finished writings.

## **Historical Note**

Albert Spencer Harding was born in Jamesville, Wisconsin on November 30, 1867. In 1883, he moved with his family to Spink County, Dakota Territory. In 1889, he entered Dakota Agricultural College. He earned his B.A. in agriculture in 1892, and went on to receive his M.A. from the University of Nebraska. In 1897, he returned to Brookings as a professor.

From 1897 to 1943, Harding taught courses at South Dakota State University [SDSU] in history, political science, sociology and economics. During his 54 years of teaching, he taught 600 different classes with a total of 11,798 students. In 1931, he was named head of the history and political science department, a position he held until his retirement.

In 1897 or 1898, Harding married Neva Marie Whaley of De Smet, SD. They had one adopted son, Robert. Neva Marie died at the age of 105 at Brookings, SD in 1978.

In addition to his work at the University, Harding was very involved the Brookings Kiwanis Club, the Methodist church and the Forum.

Harding's long association with the university makes him a part of its history in a way not duplicated. In 1952, Harding Hall was built on the SDSU campus to honor him. Another tribute to Harding is the Harding Distinguished Lecture Series, which has brought distinguished lecturers to campus since 1963.

Harding died on December 2, 1952 in Brookings, SD.

## **Contents Note**

This collection is composed of material Harding collected while researching the history of South Dakota State University. Much of the material is from the works of Robert F. Kerr and William H. Powers, and it appears that Harding used their notes while compiling his own. Also included are many notes from newspapers, which may prove helpful to anyone studying the earliest days of the University. Also included in this material are Harding's Master's thesis and some other varied writings.

## **Key Words**

Harding, A. S. (Albert Spencer), 1867-1952

Kerr, R. F. (Robert Floyd), 1850-1921

Powers, W. H. (William Howard), 1868-1936

South Dakota State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts – Faculty

## **Administrative Information**

### *Conditions Governing Access*

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*Arranged and Described by*

Elizabeth B. Scott, University Archivist, 1998 July 15.

## Container List

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
1	1	Collected letters	1899 circa-1937
1	2	Collected obituaries	undated
1	3	Correspondence	1893-1949
1	4	The Forum	1906
1	5	Notes - Bibliographies	undated
1	6	Notes - Miscellaneous	undated
1	7	Notes - Outline	undated
1	8	Notes - SDSC facts	1906, undated
1	9	Notes - SDSC finances	undated
1	10	Notes - Student life and activities (draft)	undated
1	11	Notes - Student lists	undated
1	12	Writings - Compiled notes	undated
1	13	Writings - "Contested elections in Great Britain" (MS thesis)	undated
1	14	Writings - History of SDSC (draft)	undated
1	15	Writings - History and political science	undated
1	16	Writings - Party allegiance	undated
2	1	Notes - History	undated
2	2	Notes - Newspapers	undated