

The Ruth A. Lindblom Collection

**Donated by the Spicer family
July 2008**

1 linear foot

Prepared by Aimee Dus
November 2008
Cambridge Historical Commission
831 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 0213

Description

The items in this collection are primarily the papers of Ruth Abie Eveline Lindblom. Her parents, John V. and Ida Christine Lindblom were born in Sweden, moved to Massachusetts in the 1880s, and lived in Cambridge for the rest of their lives. Ruth Lindblom was also a life-long resident of Cambridge. According to the baptism certificate in this collection, Ruth was born in 1892. The Cambridge city directory shows that in 1914 the family moved to 478 Huron Ave. Ruth Lindblom lived at this address until the time of her death, and this collection was eventually found there. She never married or had children. Religious life appears to have been very important to her. She worked as the secretary of the First Parish, Unitarian Church in Cambridge for 38 years and remained closely involved in the church for her entire life. Besides Ruth, the Lindbloms had three surviving children, a daughter, Edith Lindblom, and two sons, George V. Lindblom and Francis C. Nelson. Another son, Arthur Rudolph, appears to have died in childhood. While several items in the collection relate to her siblings (most notably the baptism and graduation certificates and George's World War I diary) the items appear to have been collected by Ruth and most of them relate to her life and work. Since Ruth Lindblom was so active in her church, this collection would be of particular interest to a researcher looking for information on the church of the First Parish in Cambridge. The collection is also a significant source of information on a family of Swedish immigrants in Cambridge.

Scope and Content

Series I: The Lindblom Family 1890-1934

The first series comprises items relating to the entire Lindblom family. This series includes newspaper death notices for Ruth's parents and a relative as well as graduation, confirmation and baptism certificates for all of the siblings. The baptism certificates document the family's involvement in Cambridge's Faith Lutheran Church. Photocopies of the certificates have been filed with the collection. The original certificates are stored separately in the CHC library flat file cabinet. One certificate, Francis Nelson's graduation certificate from the New England Conservatory, has been discarded.

Series II: George Lindblom 1918-1919

The second series contains just one item, George Lindblom's notebook. Written in Europe in 1918, the notebook contains diary entries and other notes describing his service as a soldier at the end of World War I.

Series III: Ruth Lindblom, Personal 1909-1982

Series III comprises the bulk of Ruth Lindblom's personal papers, including two personal letters and records of her finances and education. Several items in this series also document Ruth Lindblom's involvement in several Cambridge charitable organizations.

Series IV: Church of the First Parish, Cambridge 1867-1983

Series IV includes materials relating to the First Parish church and to Ruth Lindblom's job as parish secretary there. Ruth Lindblom retired from her position as

parish secretary in 1947, and most of the items in this series fall into the time span of her tenure there, with most materials from the period 1919-1945. These items range from church publications, including prayer booklets and church bulletins, to typewritten copies of sermons, to a selection of booklets and papers relating to the planning, creation and dedication of the Samuel Crothers Memorial Chapel in 1941.

Series V: Photographs c.1900-1980

The last series includes an album of family photographs ranging in date throughout the 20th century. Many of the photographs are unlabeled, but some include names, dates, locations and other identifying information. Many are vacation photos- some were taken in New Hampshire, and others were taken in Montreal and Quebec. Cambridge locations could be identified in several photos. There are several images of Cambridge's First Parish Church.

Provenance

This collection was given to the CHC in July 2008. The Spicer family found this collection in the attic of their home and donated it to the CHC.

Folder List

I. The Lindblom Family 1890-1964

Box I

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|---|------------------|
| 1. Edith Lindblom: Baptism certificate | 1890 |
| 2. Georg Lindblom: Baptism certificate | 1894 |
| 3. Arthur Lindblom: Baptism certificate | 1897 |
| 4. Ruth Lindblom: Baptism, graduation and Confirmation certificates | 1892, 1905, 1907 |
| 5. Francis Charles Nelson: Graduation certificates | 1905, 1911, 1912 |
| 6. Ida C. Lindblom Obituary | 1934 |
| 7. John V. Lindblom: Obituaries | undated |
| 8. Karl Lindblom: Obituaries | 1964 |

II. George Lindblom 1918-1919

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| 9. Notebook, World War I diary | 1918-1919 |
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III. Ruth Lindblom, Personal 1909-1982

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| 10. Education | undated, 1909 |
| 11. Letters | 1934, 1959 |
| 12. Financial Records and Will | 1950-1982 |
| 13. Involvement in Cambridge charities | 1948, 1955, undated |

IV. Church of the First Parish, Cambridge 1867-1983

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|---|------------------|
| 14. Parish Secretary's Report | 1867 |
| 15. Sermons, Samuel Crothers and Wilburn Miller | 1919, 1952 |
| 16. Items relating to the creation of the Samuel Crothers Memorial chapel | 1920, 1928, 1941 |
| 17. Church Publications: Sermon and Prayer Booklets | 1917-1944 |
| 18. Church Publications: Parish Bulletins | 1944-1983 |
| 19. Other Church Publications | 1927-1945 |
| 20. Other church correspondence and papers | 1948, 1959 |
| 21. Magazine: "The Christian Unitarian Register" | 1949 |
| 22. Image of the First Parish Church | undated |

Box II

V. Photographs c.1900-1980

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| 23. Album of photographs | c.1900-c.1980 |
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<http://www.cambridgema.gov/historic/researchaids/archivalcollections>

