



Special Collections and University Archives

**Jane E. Leonard Papers
Manuscript Group 24**

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Last Modified December 2, 2021**

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Jane E. Leonard Papers, Manuscript Group 24
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Special Collections and University Archives
1 box; 1 linear foot

Biographical Note

During Jane Leonard's 46 years of service to Indiana State Normal School, from 1875 to 1921, ISNS had nine principals. The one person who alumni said embodied the school during that time was Jane Leonard.

According former IUP President Dr. John D. Welty, "Certainly, the devotion that Jane Leonard gave to students set an example that has made caring and concern a tradition at IUP." Professors Ron Juliette and Dale Landon wrote that Jane Leonard, "more than anyone else, is to be credited what is called the Indiana spirit, this epitomizes her relationship to the institution's history."



Jane Elizabeth Leonard (December 27, 1840-April 5, 1924) was born in Clearfield County. Her parents were Robert and Lydia Wilson Leonard. In 1860-1861, she was enrolled at Millersville State Normal School in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where she excelled in her studies. After graduating, Jane Leonard was invited to join the Millersville faculty. From 1868 to 1875, each History and Geography. She remained on the faculty until 1875.

Leonard accepted a position at the newly created Indiana State Normal School in Indiana, Pennsylvania, and she arrived in Indiana on May 18, 1875. Her apartment and office were located in the main building, which was later named John Sutton Hall. Jane Leonard served as the Preceptress, a position, which after her retirement in 1921 became the Dean of Women. During her tenure at ISNS, Jane Leonard also taught History, Geography, and English. One of her students, Martha Cameron, Class of 1881, recalled, "When I entered Indiana Normal in 1880, it was with meager foundations for the work upon which to build a career ... Miss Leonard was one of the first really well-informed women I ever knew."

Jane Leonard received an honorary B.S. degree from Indiana State Normal School in 1893, and an honorary M.A. degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1916. In 1903, the Indiana State Normal School Board of Trustees named the Jane E. Leonard Recitation Hall in her honor. The original Leonard Hall, which was built near the Oak Grove was destroyed by fire in 1952, and a new Leonard Hall opened in 1954. On May 6, 2021, the IUP Council of Trustees approved naming the Humanities and Social Sciences building as Jane E. Leonard Hall in recognition of her incredible dedication to the school.

In addition to her role as Preceptress, Jane Leonard taught History until 1907, and she taught English until her retirement on July 1, 1921. After retiring, she was continued to reside in John Sutton Hall, which was the only building on campus when the school opened in 1875. Her residence in John Sutton Hall became a center for returning alumni, many of whom remained in contact with "Aunt Jane."

Jane Leonard was actively involved in supporting women's suffrage, and she was a member of the Democratic Party. She chaired the Indiana County Ladies Democratic Committee and the Women Voters League, and she belonged to the Ingleside Club of Indiana. After retiring from Indiana State Normal School, at the age of 81, Jane Leonard ran for Congress to represent Indiana County in 1922, using her campaign to challenge women to become involved in politics. That year, one of her former students, Sarah "Sadie" McCune Gallaher (1864-1964), ISNS Class of 1888, was one of eight women elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.



1908 Postcard from Indiana State Normal School

Jane Leonard was always active in the Indiana community, and she belonged to the Ingleside Club and the Shakespeare Club. Indiana State Normal School, alumni, and the community mourned the passing of Jane Leonard on April 5, 1924. The *Indiana Evening Gazette* headlined "Miss Jane E. Leonard, 83, Beloved Preceptress of Indiana State Normal School, passes away during sleep. Everyone regrets the passing of "Aunt Jane" the world was made better for her living in it." In 1950, in memory of Jane Leonard, Dr. Willis E. Pratt said, "No other person has had so great an influence on the development of Indiana." Only a handful of employees have surpassed her in the longevity of their employment at the school, but it can be said that no one else epitomized the traditions of Indiana State Normal School more other than Jane Leonard.



1975 Second Leonard Hall at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP)



2021 Jane E. Leonard Hall, [IUP College of Arts and Humanities](#)

For more information about Jane Leonard, see IUP Publications, including:

Indiana University of Pennsylvania: Our Homage and Our Love (1991) by Ron Juliette and Dale Landon. Call Number: LD2485 .J85 1991)

The IUP Story: Indiana University of Pennsylvania, from Normal School to University (2021) by Dr. Charles Cashdollar.

Scope and Content

The Jane E. Leonard papers are housed in 1 archival box. The collection contains correspondence, books, and photographs that belonged to Jane Leonard, as well as miscellaneous newspaper articles and testimonials about her life and career at Indiana State Normal School.

Provenance

The office of Jane Leonard, the IUP Libraries, and the Office of the President.

Restrictions

None.

Processor

In 2014, the collection was re-housed, rearranged and the inventory was rewritten by Harrison Wick.

Container List

Box 1 (20 folders)

1. Correspondence, no date, 1911, 1918-1919, and 1922 (7 letters)
 - a. Christmas card, "A Christmas Greeting to you dear John and heartfelt love and welcome from your old friend and teacher Jane E. Leonard."
 - b. Christmas card, "To my friend of the years with love Jane E. Leonard."
 - c. January 14, 1911: letter to unknown friend
 - d. March 14, 1918: letter to Helen Wilson Luzadder
 - e. January 22, 1919: letter to Helen Wilson Luzadder
 - f. March 4, 1922: "Dear old student of Indiana ... John S. Fisher, Class of 1886, and now Commissioner of Banking of the State of Pennsylvania is a candidate for Governor..."
 - g. March 11, 1922: "Dear old student of Indiana ...John S. Fisher..."
2. Correspondence, 1883 donated by Clark Miller in 1965
 - a. February 3, 1883: Letter to Jane Leonard from Silas Moorhead Clark, who was a trustee of the Indiana Normal School. Clark Miller was Silas Moorhead Clark's oldest grandson, and was baptized Silas Moorhead Clark Miller in 1897.
3. Correspondence, 1915 (11 letters) concerning the fortieth anniversary of Indiana Normal School honoring Jane Leonard.
 - a. June 21, 1915: Private Secretary of the Governor of Pennsylvania to Thomas Sutton, President of the Indiana Normal School Board of Trustees.

- b. June 19, 1915: Samuel Hamilton, Superintendent of Allegheny County Schools, to Thomas Sutton.
 - c. June 19, 1915: Nathan C. Schaeffer, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, to Thomas Sutton.
 - d. June 23, 1915: Henry Houck, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Internal Affairs, to Thomas Sutton.
 - e. June 25, 1915: D. J. Waller at Bloomsburg State Normal School to Thomas Sutton.
 - f. June 27, 1915: Charles W. Deane of the Connecticut Board of Education to Thomas Sutton.
 - g. June 28, 1915: Henry Houck to Thomas Sutton.
 - h. June 30, 1915: Superintendent Robert C. Shaw Vice President of the Pennsylvania State Educational Association to Thomas Sutton.
 - i. July 1, 1915: J. Wood Clark, Secretary of the U.S. District Court, sending a copy of a resolution honoring Jane Leonard's service to Indiana Normal School to Dr. James E. Ament of Indiana Normal School.
 - j. July 14, 1915: Z. X. Snyder, President of the State Teachers College in Greeley, Colorado to Thomas Sutton.
 - k. July 20, 1915: Thomas Sutton to Jane Leonard about the letters received in response to the invitation to Jane Leonard's fortieth anniversary at Indiana State Normal School.
4. Correspondence, 1919 (letter of recommendation and photograph)
 - a. May 13, 1919: letter of recommendation for Amy Gray written and signed by Jane Leonard.
 5. Eulogies and Tributes, 1923-1924
 6. Eulogy in the *Normal Herald*, July 1924, Volume 30, Number 3 dedicated to Jane Leonard
 7. Eulogy – Memory Book of correspondence and remembrances of Jane Leonard with introduction by John A. H. Keith, "These appreciate letters have been prepared by some of Miss Leonard's many, many friends among the alumni of the Indiana State Normal School. They are bound into a volume for a place in the school's library so that those who, in future years, seek to know what manner of woman Jane E. Leonard was, may find herein a many-sided estimate of her richly endowed personality," May 30, 1925.
 8. Memorabilia – Program from the Commencement Dinner, June 2, 1925 celebrating the fiftieth year of Indiana State Normal School. Quotation by Jane E. Leonard, "Can we not salute these younger people, this new era, this greater time, this better school that is to be built upon the good past? I think we can, and so it is."
 9. Memorabilia – Invitation to the United States Presidential Inauguration of Calvin Coolidge on March 3, 1925.
 10. Rumored Myth – Jane E. Leonard's Romance with U.S. President James Buchanan of Pennsylvania, 1954-1966 (3 items)
 - a. Indiana State Teachers College Alumni News, December 1954, pages 6-10, "Jane E. Leonard's Romance with James Buchanan: A legend studied," by Arthur F. Nicholson.

- b. Newspaper article, “Refused Man Who Later Became President of U.S.: Pretty Romance in Younger Days of Miss Jane Leonard, now nearing her 90th year at Indiana State Normal School,” no date
 - c. Typed transcript of newspaper article, “Refused Man Who Later Became President of U.S.,” no date
 - d. Rebuttal of the alleged romance. “The article about Jane Leonard’s alleged romance which have in the archives probably appeared in the Johnstown Democrat about May 1911. Most of this article is quite obviously fiction.”
 - e. August 25, 1966: Indiana Evening Gazette newspaper article about Jane Leonard’s political activism with Judge Silas Moorhead Clark and U. S. President James Buchanan.
11. Newspaper Clippings – Scrapbook of newspaper articles collected by Jane Leonard mostly concerning Indiana Normal School alumni from the 1870’s to 1900’s.
 12. Newspaper Clippings, 1922 concerning Jane E. Leonard running for Congress.
 13. Newspaper Clippings, 1924-1925 obituaries and tributes to Jane E. Leonard
 14. Photographs:
 - a. Portrait, ca. 1920
 - b. Photograph of Jane Leonard sitting at her desk, 1890s
 - c. Portrait of Jane Leonard, ca. 1890
 - d. Portrait painting (copies)
 - e. Leonard Literary Society sign at the Movie Theater in Indiana, Pennsylvania (ca. 1920s).
 15. Publications – Normal Herald, Vol. XXI, No. 2, April 1915 (1915-1916) Indiana State Normal School, dedication to Jane Leonard for forty years of service.
 16. Publications – Normal Herald, Vol. XXIV, No. 2, (1924-1925) Indiana State Normal School, dedicated to Jane Leonard
 17. Memorial Fund, Indiana Gazette – May 19, 1936
 18. Memorabilia: Autograph book containing Jane E. Leonard’s autograph (while she was a student and later taught at Millersville State Normal School from 1868-1875) donated by Ruth Crist, Class of 1940
 19. Memorabilia: 2 engraved portraits of Jane Leonard, Zinc Offset Printing Plate used for ISNS publications, 1920s, Gift of the Alumni Association, 1976 (located in the vault with box of engraved printer plates used in publications from the 1920s to 1960s)
 20. Website Information about Jane Leonard and three buildings named after her on the campus of Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), 2021-2022

Books removed from this collection and placed in the Rare Book Collection include:

1. The Holy Bible containing New and Old Testaments. Oxford: University Press, 1870. Signed and embossed Jane E. Leonard, 1872. Hard bound leather. Clamshell box. Call Number: BS 185 1870 .O93
2. The Holy Bible containing New and Old Testaments. Oxford: University Press, 1893. Signed by Jane Leonard. Soft back Leather. Call Number: BS 185 1893 O8

3. Rayne, Mrs. M.L. *What Can A Woman Do or Her Position in the Business and Literary World?* Detroit: F.B. Dickerson & Co., 1884. Signed by Jane Leonard. Hardback. Call Number: HD 6058 .R3 1884
4. Dickens, Charles. *The Works of Charles Dickens: Christmas Stories*. New York: Collier, ca. 1900. Volume 29. Inscribed by Jane Leonard. Call Number: PR 4557 .A1 1900
5. Clark, William J., Jr. *Great American Sculptures*. Philadelphia: Barrie, ca. 1900. Inscribed to Jane Leonard by M.E.F. Call Number: NB 205 .C6



Sincerely Yours
Jane E. Leonard

Photograph of Jane Leonard in 1897 *Empanda* Yearbook