

## Adelaide H. Dahn Collection Introduction

The Adelaide H. Dahn Collection was a gift from Frederick Zurfluh Dahn. It also contains papers given by Miss Dahn during her lifetime.

Property rights to this collection belong to the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library. It is the responsibility of the researcher to determine ownership of literary rights.

The biographical sketch, family chart, and family chronology were compiled from information contained in the collection. They are intended merely to assist the researcher; they are by no means complete or definitive.

## Adelaide H. Dahn Collection Dahn Family Chronology

- 1839 – Frederick H. Dahn born in Germany on February 14
- 1860 – Frederick Dahn becomes a naturalized citizen in Toledo, Ohio
- 1861 – Volunteers for service in the Civil War, mustered in as a private in Company E, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, Kentucky Infantry, June 6
- 1864 – Discharged at Covington, Kentucky, June 19
- 1869 – Marries Caroline Hilt on January 2; Caroline dies on November 19 at 28 years of age
- 1870 – Frederick Dahn buys property in Crane Subdivision of Toledo. This and other purchases establish him as a substantial farmer.
- 1872 – Marries Wilhelmina (Minna) Fiddeke on November 10
- 1873 – Daughter Amy Minnie Louisa born on November 7
- 1875 – Amy dies on March 29; son, Troy Amos Louis born on June 15
- 1878 – Daughter Augusta Doretta born June 25
- 1882 – Daughter Adelaide Henrietta born on September 15
- 1886 – Lena Zurfluh, sister of Emma Zurfluh, signs a teacher's one year contract with Toledo Board of Education for \$300.00 per year salary
- 1888 – Renews teacher's contract, salary \$375.00 per year
- 1889 – Renews contract, salary \$400.00 per year
- 1892 – John Dahn, Frederick's brother, moves to Williamsburg, Virginia, as a real estate agent
- 1894 – Emma Zurfluh graduates from Toledo High School
- 1897 – Adelaide confirmed at first German Reformed Church on April 11; Troy begins work as bank architect with Conant Brothers Furniture Company
- 1898 – Adelaide completes Franklin Grammar School on June 24
- 1900 – Troy marries Emma Zurfluh on September 20; they had a son, Frederick Zurfluh Dahn
- 1902 – Adelaide graduates from Toledo Polytechnic School on June 20
- 1904 – Adelaide graduates from Toledo Normal School on June 24 and joins faculty of Southeast School
- 1905 – Minna Fiddeke Dahn dies on December 23
- 1910 – Frederick H. Dahn dies on July 14
- 1914 – Minerva Sage Dahn, wife of John Dahn, dies in July
- 1917 – Frederick Zurfluh Dahn, Troy and Emma's son, graduates from Southeast School
- 1918 – Troy A. Dahn registers for military service on September 12
- 1921 – Frederick Z. Dahn graduates from Waite High School on June 16; begins working with his father in furniture business
- 1922 – Southeast School renamed Hathaway School after Harrison Hathaway, Toledo doctor and member of Board of Trustees, Toledo Public Library
- 1932 – Dahn Sinning (Mrs. Albert) dies on July 27
- 1944 – Troy A. Dahn dies on October 6

## Adelaide H. Dahn Collection Dahn Family Chronology

- 1945 – Hathaway School shut down in June
- 1946 – Adelaide Dahn retires as schoolteacher
- 1958 – Denise Elizabeth Dahn, daughter of Richard and Barbara Dahn, born March 6
- 1959 – Emma Zurfluh Dahn dies on June 12
- 1964 – Douglas Dahn marries Anna Marie Temple on August 22
- 1974 – Adelaide Dahn dies on August 23

## Adelaide H. Dahn Collection

### Biographical Sketch and Explanatory Notes

Adelaide H. Dahn, veteran Toledo schoolteacher, was born in East Toledo on September 15, 1882, the third daughter and youngest child of Frederick and Wilhelmina (known as Minna) Dahn. She grew up in East Toledo, where her father was a fairly substantial farmer. She attended Franklin Grammar School, completing the program there in 1898. She graduated from Toledo Polytechnic School in 1902, then from the Toledo Normal School in 1904. Although Miss Dahn later did graduate work at the University of Wisconsin and Columbia University, she began her teaching career right after completion of Normal School, as an eighth grade teacher at Southeast School. The school was re-named Hathaway School after Dr. Harrison Hathaway, Toledo physician and a member of the Toledo Public Library Board of Trustees. Later Miss Dahn became the fifth grade teacher at this school, and held this position until 1946, when she retired at the age of 64. Even then, hers was only a semi-retirement, since she was a substitute teacher for the next sixteen years.

Miss Dahn hardly fitted the image of the 'old maid school teacher'. Judging from the papers of her students, she took a new approach to teaching, trying to expose her pupils to as much as possible. They interviewed older residents of the community to discover what life in early Toledo was like. They toured the Toledo harbor, fire houses and police stations, and had speakers from industries, and – no doubt a novelty for the times – from radio stations. That these tours were not time wasters can be seen from the comment of Captain Ray Kinney of the Fire Department who wrote Miss Dahn, "You are surely to be congratulated on the keen perception shown by your class. We found very few minor mistakes [in their report on the Fire Station]. We think they did wonderfully well." (See "Facts From No. 10 Fire House", Folder 9.)

Miss Dahn also strove to instill in her students a pride in their school and community, and to arouse their curiosity about everything. A letter from Frank I. Consaul, City Councilman, assures the fifth graders that the unsatisfactory conditions on the streets near Hathaway School would be remedied immediately. Charles Mensing of the Toledo Police and Fire Alarm System wrote to students answering questions about how the alarm worked, how much it cost, how traffic lights were timed, and other related items. Stanley Neubrecht of Radio Station WTOL came to demonstrate radio equipment. Reports filed by students who had gone on tours, and letters from the people who conducted them indicate that Miss Dahn succeeded in her attempts to broaden her students' horizons.

Miss Dahn was, in effect, communicating her enthusiasm for history, art, and learning to her students. She was a local history buff, belonging to the Northwest Ohio Historical Society and the Ohio Historical Society, and wrote many articles on East Side Toledo. Certainly one of her most endearing pieces was a play about the early East Side communities called, "Oregon Helps Frogtown Leap Ahead." She was a charter

## Adelaide H. Dahn Collection Biographical Sketch and Explanatory Notes

member of the Toledo Art Museum, the Toledo Teachers Association and state and national retired teachers associations.

One portion of the “old maid school teacher image” was evident in Miss Dahn’s life and this was the love and devotion of her former students that she retained throughout her life. Her papers contained hundreds of high school and college graduation announcements, wedding and ordination invitations, and birth announcements, and it can be assumed that these represent only part of the whole. Former students wrote to her long after they finished fifth grade and had left Hathaway School.

Miss Dahn retired from teaching in 1946 after the Toledo Board of Education closed Hathaway School where she had taught for forty-three years. She continued to substitute until she was close to eighty and maintained her contacts with the profession to which she had given so much. One wonders what she thought of the new innovations in teaching. It is certain what her students thought of her. In a letter she received from a former student, he referred to her as “his good friend.” There is surely no greater tribute to be made.

## Adelaide H. Dahn Collection Inventory

- Folder 1      Personal and Family Correspondence, 1886-1909
1. Thomas W. McKean to Frederick Dahn, March 12, 1886
  2. Unsigned letter to "Brother, Sister and Kids," August 17, 1896
  3. John Dahn to Frederick Dahn, December 25, 1896
  4. Letterhead, John Dahn, Real Estate Agent, December 31, 1896
  5. Frederick H. Zurfluh to Ida Zurfluh, February 3, 1899
  6. Picture post card, J. A. J. to Ada Dahn, May 8, 1907
  7. Unfinished and unsigned letter to "dear Ones," June 28, 1907
  8. Adelaide Dahn to Augusta Dahn, August 14, 1907
  9. Adelaide Dahn to Augusta Dahn, August 21, 1907
  10. Unfinished and unsigned letter, July 1, 1909
  11. Adelaide Dahn to "Dear Ones," July 9, 1909
  12. Adelaide Dahn to "Dear People," July 13, 1909
  13. Adelaide Dahn to Frederick Dahn, July 17, 1909
  14. Adelaide Dahn to Frederick and Augusta Dahn, July 21, 1909
  15. Unsigned letter to "Dear People," July 27, 1909
  16. Adelaide Dahn to "Dear People," August 7, 1909
  17. Adelaide Dahn, no addressee, August 9, 1909
  18. Adelaide Dahn to "Dear People," August 11, 1909

(Note: There are no letters in this collection between 1909 and 1921.)

- Folder 2      Personal and Family Correspondence, 1921-1949
1. William B. Guitteau, Superintendent of Schools, to "Dear Friend," signed form letter, June 16, 1921
  2. Adelaide Dahn to Troy and Emma Dahn, letter on a menu, 1929
  3. Adelaide Dahn, no addressee, n.d.
  4. Cousin Hannah to Troy A. Dahn, November 17, 1935
  5. Mabel F. Shea to Adelaide Dahn, April 10, 1939
  6. Henry W. Morgan to Adelaide Dahn, March 26, 1940
  7. Martha Pfitzer to Adelaide Dahn, October 31, 1941
  8. Charles F. Mensing to Adelaide Dahn, August 20, 1943
  9. Marion S. Whairs to "Friends in Hathaway School," January 1945
  10. George W. Pearson to Adelaide Dahn, March 11, 1945
  11. Corporal Toni Martino to Adelaide Dahn, August 11, 1945
  12. Corporal Toni Martino to Franklin Merrett, August 11, 1945
  13. Corporal Toni Martino to Norma Cline, August 11, 1945
  14. Corporal Toni Martino to Dolores Baranek, August 11, 1945
  15. Edith and Percy Hutton to Adelaide Dahn, April 18, 1946
  16. Robert Swartz to Adelaide Dahn, April 24, 1946
  17. Edith R. Hutton to Adelaide Dahn, November 3, 1946

## Adelaide H. Dahn Collection Inventory

- Folder 2      Personal and Family Correspondence, 1921-1949  
18. Martha Pfitzer to Adelaide Dahn, April 18, 1947  
19. Grace P. Ries to Adelaide Dahn, November 14, 1949
- Folder 3      Personal and Family Correspondence, 1950-1972  
1. Bob, Pat and Sandy to Adelaide Dahn, June 27, 1956 (note card)  
2. Corinne Crane to Adelaide Dahn, May 7, 1956  
3. L. R. Schmidt to Adelaide Dahn, May 6, 1959 (in German)  
4. Ruth Brown Campbell to Adelaide Dahn, September 1, 1959  
5. Bea to Adelaide Dahn, September 1, 1959  
6. Ruth Campbell Brown to Adelaide Dahn, October 26, 1959  
7. Muriel to Adelaide Dahn, November 12, 1963  
8. Barbara to Auntie May, October 1, 1965  
9. Albertine Bischoff to Adelaide Dahn, March 12, 1968  
10. Gertrude Kidney to Adelaide Dahn, May 14, 1968  
11. Albertine Bischoff to Adelaide Dahn, November 28, 1968 with note,  
    Adelaide Dahn to Albertine Bischoff (?)  
12. Postcard, Hazel to Adelaide Dahn, January 30, 1969  
13. Albertine Bischoff to Adelaide Dahn, prior to April 6, 1969; memorial  
    card attached  
14. Donna McGwinn to Adelaide Dahn, February 15, 1971  
15. Donna McGwinn to Adelaide Dahn, January 17, 1972
- Folder 4      Local History Cards and Letters  
1. Postcards with Toledo area sketches; thank you cards from Toledo  
    Public Library, 1945-1962  
2. Letter, Mildred Shepherst to Adelaide Dahn, September 22, 1947  
3. Letter, Irene McCreery to Adelaide Dahn, April 24, 1953  
4. Letter, Irene McCreery to Adelaide Dahn, August 9, 1957  
5. Letter, C. P. Simpson to "Friend," concerning Pontiac
- Folder 5      Personal and Family Memorabilia  
1. Certificate of Citizenship, Frederick H. Dan [Dahn], June 7, 1860  
2. Family Bible pages, 1869-1921  
3. Warranty deed on property, Charles A. Crane to Frederick H. Dahn,  
    February 16, 1875  
4. Teacher's contract, Board of Education of Toledo and Lena Zurfluh,  
    June 16, 1886  
5. Teacher's contract, Board of Education of Toledo and Lena Zurfluh,  
    June 18, 1888

## Adelaide H. Dahn Collection Inventory

- Folder 5      Personal and Family Memorabilia
6. Teacher's contract, Board of Education of Toledo and Lena Zurfluh, June 11, 1889
  7. Receipts for assessments and taxes to Frederick H. Dahn, 1876; December 8, 1896; January 20, December 11, 1897; January 20, January 21, March 13, 1898; March 27, 1906
  8. Confirmation certificate, Adelaide Dahn, April 11, 1897
  9. Announcement of confirmation anniversary, March 20, 1911 with list of classmates for confirmation Class, 1889
  10. Military registration card for Troy A. Dahn, September 12, 1918
  11. Graduation announcement, Frederick Zurfluh Dahn, Waite High School, June 16, 1921
  12. Program of Commencement Exercises, Waite High School, June 16, 1921
  13. Reprint from *Daily Union of Upper Sandusky, Ohio*, "Troy A. Dahn Addresses Kiwanis Club Wednesday, Gives Interesting History of Reformed Home for the Aged Here." (2 copies)
  14. *Atlanta Journal Radio Wave*, week of February 17-23, 1929
  15. Business cards, Troy A. Dahn and Frederick Z. Dahn
  16. Birth announcement card, Denise Elizabeth Dahn, March 6, 1958
  17. Wedding invitation, Anna Marie Temple and Douglas Charles Dahn, August 22, 1964
- Folder 6      "Oregon Helps Frogtown Leap Ahead"
1. Five copies of a school play, probably written by Miss Dahn, about the early history of East Toledo. (Toledo was once referred to as "Frogtown" because of its swampy terrain.)
- Folder 7      Articles and Speeches
1. "The Smith Bridge Company"
  2. "Union Bridge," with notes and letter, "Chas" (Charles Mensing) to Adelaide Dahn, July 13, 1943
  3. Draft of a speech on trip to Europe, 20 pp. (the last four pages appear to be notes)
  4. "Transportation," 11 pp.
- Folder 8      Teaching Memorabilia
1. Rules for Spelling Games
  2. Notes on Toledo's early history



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- Folder 8      Teaching Memorabilia
3. Poetry: "If: For a Girl Who's Graduating"; "A Teacher's Daily Prayer"; "Teachers' Prayer"; "The Teacher" (prose); "Commandments for Teachers"
  4. "Substitution Book, Adelaide Dahn, 222 Fort Street, Toledo Normal Training School"
  5. Lesson plan for Psalm 23 (The Lord is My Shepherd), with contemporary version by Francis Gay, "The Lord is my Pacesetter" and two humorous poems
- Folder 9      Papers On and By Students
1. Notes from an interview or questionnaire
  2. Assignment by Mildred Cromer, March 2, 1925, "The First Inauguration over the radio"
  3. "Interview with Mrs. Teegardin," student's report, December 2, 1937
  4. "Interview with Mr. McGuire," student's report, February 2, 1937
  5. "Interview with Mrs. Thomas," report by Gloria Moehring
  6. "Black Swamp Melody"
  7. Student poem, "The Maumee"
  8. "Centennial Play," by Frances Romp
  9. Letter, Frances Romp to Mr. Lyons, June 9, 1938
  10. "The Hat and the Umbrella That Caused So Much Trouble," by Doris Schmidt, December 2, 1937
  11. "My Trip to Libbey Owens-Ford Glass Co.," by Patricia Hartman, March 28, 1940
  12. "The First Step on the Boat," by Walter Boos, July 2, 1932
  13. "Mr. Files and His Deer," by Frances Rose Romp
  14. "A Prehistoric Fort," unsigned
  15. Biography of James Dale Chamberlin (copied by student?)
  16. "Facts from No. 10 Fire House," student report with note from Capt. Roy Kinney to Miss Dahn
  17. "Toledo Harbor Boats"
  18. Toledo Harbor questions
  19. Notes on "coal machines [sic]"
  20. Letter, Angeline Radcliffe to class, March 17, 1937, from Australia
  21. Letter, Angeline Radcliffe to Adelaide Dahn, March 17, 1937, from Australia
  22. Poem, "South East School," by Richard Hausen, a student, Spring 1920
  23. Letter, Charles F. Mensing to "My Dear Young Friends," April 26, 1939

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- Folder 9      Papers On and By Students
24. Letter, Frank I. Consaul to Adelaide Dahn and class, November 23, 1940
  25. Letter and article on Trowbridge Fire, Charles F. Mensing to Adelaide Dahn and class, June 12, 1941 (Page 1 of three page article is missing)
  26. Letter, Stanley Neubert, WTOL radio station, to Adelaide Dahn and class, May 21, 1943
- Folder 10     Hathaway and Southeast School Memorabilia
1. Bath permit
  2. Hathaway P. T. A. Meeting Notice
  3. May Day Program, Toledo Public Schools
  4. P. T. A. Meeting Program
  5. Hathaway P. T. A. Banquet program
  6. Fifth Union Commencement of Eighth Graders of Franklin, East Toledo Central, and Southeast Schools, June 20, 1905
  7. P. T. A. Meeting Notice, Southeast School, October 24, 1913
  8. Southeast Toledo Mother's Club Meeting Notice, February 11, 1916
  9. Program, East Side Federation Parent Teachers Club meeting, January 1929
  10. Program, Kindergarten play
  11. Program, "Patty Makes Things Hum," at Hathaway School Auditorium, 1930
  12. Program, Annual Spring Frolic for Child Welfare, Hathaway School Teachers, May 17, 1935
  13. May Day Program, Hathaway and McKesson Schools, May 17, 1937 at Navarre Park
  14. Program, "The Book Shop," November 12, 1936
  15. P. T. A. Meeting Notice, Hathaway School, May 17, 1939
  16. Program, "Journeys of Youth," Hathaway Junior High School
  17. May Day Program, May 25, 1945
  18. Class lists and seating charts
  19. Hathaway School Song, to be sung to tune of Ohio State University fight song "Down the Field."
  20. Handbill, "Let Us Keep Hathaway School Open!"
  21. History of Hathaway School (8 pp)
  22. News Bulletin, Hathaway Parent Teachers Association, February 18, 1938
  23. Program, Teachers of Southeast School, June 1904

## Adelaide H. Dahn Collection Inventory

- Folder 11    Miscellaneous Papers
1. Introductory card
  2. Partial travelogue
  3. Travelogue, January to June 1924
  4. Travelogue, Paris, July 10-15
  5. Hotel Bill, Carnavon, Wales, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1922
  6. Travelogue
  7. Kaffeehaus Drei-Konige Programm, August 20, 1922
  8. Hotel Bill, London, July 7, 1922
  9. Poetry
  10. "A Norway Maple," Spring 1903
  11. Two genealogy charts, Brown, Tracy, Crane, Hill and Whitmore families
  12. Poetry by E. H. Shaunon
  13. Christmas greetings, watercolors by Ida Zurfluh, 1904
  14. Death announcement (in German) for Martha Pfitzer, February 25, 1952
- Folder 12    Added Correspondence
1. Margaret to Adelaide H. Dahn, July 10, 1963
  2. Margaret to Adelaide H. Dahn, n.d.
- Folder 13    Compositions
1. "The Great period of Italian Literature, 1265-1375," by Adelaide Dahn, 1903
  2. "An Essay on John Amos Comenius, His Life and Work," by Adelaide Dahn, 1903
- Folder 14    Student Teaching Notebook, 1903
- Folder 15    Pearson Park Scrapbook, made by Hathaway School students
- Folder 16    Sunday School books
1. Student book by Frederick Dahn, January 1914
  2. Student book by Frederick Dahn, March 1914
  3. Student book by Frederick Dahn, July 1914
- Folder 17    Autograph book, Adelaide Dahn
- Folder 18    Autograph book, Ada Zurfluh
- Folder 19    Scrapbooks (2)

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- Folder 20      Miscellaneous
1. Copper plate for name card
  2. Booklet, unbound, in German
  3. Automobile Record Book
  4. *Friendship: Gleaned From Here and There*. Akron, Ohio: Saalfield Publishing Co., [1913] (Miniature book)
  5. *Poems: A Souvenir* by Edgar A. Guest. Chicago: The Reilly & Lee Co., 1919
  6. *O Little Town of Bethlehem* by Phillips Brooks. New York: Cupple & Leon, n.d. (belonged to Frederick Z. Dahn)
- Oversize Folder 1      (Black map case)  
Diplomas and Certificates
1. Diploma of Emma Zurfluh, Toledo Public Schools, High School Department, June 15, 1894
  2. Diploma of Emma Zurfluh, Toledo Normal Training School, June 15, 1894
  3. Certificate of Adelaide Dahn from Franklin School for completion of Grammar School, June 24, 1898
  4. Diploma of Adelaide Dahn from Toledo Polytechnic School, June 20, 1902
  5. Diploma of Adelaide Dahn from Toledo Normal Training School, June 24, 1904
  6. Certificate of Frederick Z. Dahn, Southeast Toledo School, June 22, 1917
  7. Certificate of Frederick Z. Dahn, Waite High School, June 16, 1921
  8. Diploma of Frederick Z. Dahn in Manual Training, June 16, 1921
  9. Certificate of membership of Frederick Z. Dahn, American Flag House and Betsy Ross Memorial