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**Manuscript Group 213
Neff Family Collection**

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Last Modified September 18, 2015**

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Manuscript Group 213: Neff Family

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1 Boxes; 1 Linear Foot

Biographical Note

John Wesley Neff (August 20, 1891-May 30, 1961) and his wife Gertrude Farrington Neff (May 14, 1904-January 24, 1992) were both natives of Missouri. John Neff was born in Redman, Missouri, and was the son of James Wesley Neff and Sara Frances Sharp Neff. Gertrude Farrington Neff was the daughter of Dr. Frank B. Farrington and Hattie Jane Hayes Farrington. John Neff was a veteran of World War One, had earned his BS at Kirksville State Teachers College in 1917, and received his MA in Education from Columbia University in 1925. John Neff was chairman of the Music Department from 1925 to 1937 at Indiana State Normal School, which became Indiana State Teachers College in 1927. He taught voice and choral conducting, and music education. After leaving the Music Department, John Neff became an insurance underwriter in Indiana, and he served on the ISTC Board of Trustees from 1937 to 1955.

Gertrude Farrington Neff was born in St. Louis, and grew up in Kirksville, Missouri. She studied at Kirksville State Teachers College and in 1924 received a Music BA from the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago. Gertrude Neff went on to earn a BS from Kirksville State Teachers College in 1926. She studied piano in New York with Ernest Hutchinson and Ernesto Berumen at the LaForge-Berumen Studies, and she had recitals in Missouri, Pennsylvania, Chicago, and New York City. Gertrude Neff was a member of the ISTC Music Department Faculty from 1927 to 1935, and had a private piano studio in Indiana, Pennsylvania, from 1935 to 1979. She was an active member of the Monday Musical Club ([Manuscript Group 54](#)) from the 1920s to the 1960s.

Scope and Content Note

The collection contains newspaper articles, recitals, and publications collected by Gertrude Farrington Neff from her active role in the Monday Musical Club, and the Music Department at Indiana State Normal School (ISNS) and later the Indiana State Teachers College (ISTC). The content dates from 1927 to 1970. Gertrude Neff was an active member of the Monday Musical Club, serving as President in 1939-1940, and later serving as publicity chair. There are also newspaper articles and recital programs from performances by Gertrude Neff's piano students. For more information about the Monday Musical Club, see [Manuscript Group 54](#).

Provenance

This collection was donated by their daughter Sarah Neff Goodrich in 2015.

Restrictions

None, this collection is open for research. Property rights reside with Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), and the IUP Special Collections and University Archives. Literary rights are retained by the creators of the records and their heirs. For permissions to reproduce or

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publish, please contact the [Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist](#).

Processor

The collection was organized and the finding aid was updated by Harrison Wick on September 18, 2015.

Content List

Box 1 (11 folders)

1. Biographical Information
 - a. John Wesley Neff (1891-1961)
 - i. Photograph of the Indiana State Teachers College (ISTC) Board of Trustees, circa 1946-1947, including John Neff, Steele Clark, Edna Bell Pierce, William Ruddock, and Mabel Waller Mack
 - b. Gertrude Farrington Neff (1904-1992) including recitals
2. Gertrude Neff: Monday Musical Club Yearbooks
 - a. 1929-1930 and 1930-1931
 - b. 1936-1937 to 1939-1940
3. Gertrude Neff: Monday Musical Club Yearbooks
 - a. 1940-1941 to 1949-1950
 - b. 1951-1952 to 1953-1954, 1956-1957 and 1960-1961
4. Gertrude Neff: Monday Musical Club Programs, 1928-1957
5. Gertrude Neff: Monday Musical Club Program Chair and Acting President, newspaper articles and programs, 1938-1939
6. Gertrude Neff: Monday Musical Club Program Chair, newspaper articles and programs, 1940s and 1950s
7. Pennsylvania Federation of Musical Clubs
 - a. Brochure: Federation of Music Clubs – Pittsburgh District, November 1, 1938
 - b. Program: 22nd Annual State Convention: Pennsylvania Federation of Musical Clubs, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, April 29-May 4, 1940
 - c. Brochure: Federation of Music Clubs – Pittsburgh District, October 31, 1941
 - d. Pennsylvania Federation of Musical Clubs, News Sheet, October-November 1952
8. ISTC Department of Music Class Meetings with Pupils of Gertrude Neff, 1928-1933
9. Gertrude Neff: Student Piano Recitals on campus, 1926-1969
10. Private Piano Recitals by the students of Gertrude Neff, 1940-1970
11. Recitals by other musicians, on and off campus, 1927-1964
 - a. Wanda Landowska (1879-1959) Harpsichordist and Pianist, ISNS Auditorium, January 29, 1926
 - b. Concert by Lois Spencer, ISTC Auditorium, October 18, 1927
 - c. Concert of Music for two pianos: Harold Bauer and Ossip Gabrilowitsch, Majestic Theater, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, February 2, 1928
 - d. Composers' Program: Stephen Collins Foster Memorial, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, April 1, 1941

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- e. New Members' Program: Stephen Collins Foster Memorial, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, January 7, 1947
- f. Senior Recital: Elizabeth Mruk, piano, Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, April 18, 1964