



Special Collections and University Archives

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**Record Group 87  
Diploma and Certificate Collection**

**For Scholarly Use Only  
Last Modified April 3, 2024**

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**Diploma and Certificate Collection; Record Group 87**  
**Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Special Collections and University Archives**  
**2 boxes; 2 linear feet**

**Scope and Content**

This collection is housed in two archival boxes and is organized chronologically by year of graduation (1879 to 1964). It contains diplomas and certificates from alumni and students who graduated from Indiana State Normal School (ISNS, 1875-1927); Indiana State Teachers College (ISTC, 1927-1959); Indiana State College (ISC, 1959-1965); and Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP, 1966-present).

The diplomas and certificates vary in format from oversized vellum or “sheep skin” to modern parchment and wood-pulp paper. These documents were personally signed by administrators and faculty including long-time ISNS Preceptress Jane E. Leonard ([Manuscript Group 24](#)) and McClellan. C. Gordon ([Manuscript Group 129: Elinor Gordon Blair](#)); and ISNS Principals David J. Waller and James Ament, and IUP President Dr. Willis E. Pratt (1906-1990) who was president of this institution from 1948 to 1968 ([Manuscript Group 22](#)). Some of the significant individuals whose diplomas reside in this collection are: Jane E. Leonard ([Manuscript Group 24](#)), Pennsylvania Governor John Stuchell Fisher ([Manuscript Group 72](#)), and faculty members Jennie R. McElhaney (McElhaney Hall) and Jennie M. Ackerman (Ackerman Hall). Many of these diplomas were earned by people who have certificates and diplomas from other institutions in [Record Group 53: Memorabilia and Ephemera](#). There are multiple diplomas for several individuals including two-year and four-year courses of study, and certificates of recognition from campus literary societies (the Erodolphian and the Huyghenian Literary Society) and the Conservatory of Music ([Record Group 33: Department of Music](#)).

**Provenance**

These diplomas and certificates have been donated by individuals as well as campus offices including the Registrar and the IUP Libraries.

**Restrictions**

This collection is open for research. Property rights reside with Indiana University of Pennsylvania, University Archives and Special Collections. Literary rights are retained by the creators of the records and their heirs. For permissions to reproduce or publish, please contact the coordinator of the University Archives and Special Collections.

**Processor**

The collection was processed and the finding aid was updated by Harrison Wick on April 3, 2024.

**Container List**

**Box 1 Large Format (58 Diplomas and Certificates)**

**Indiana State Normal School (ISNS)**

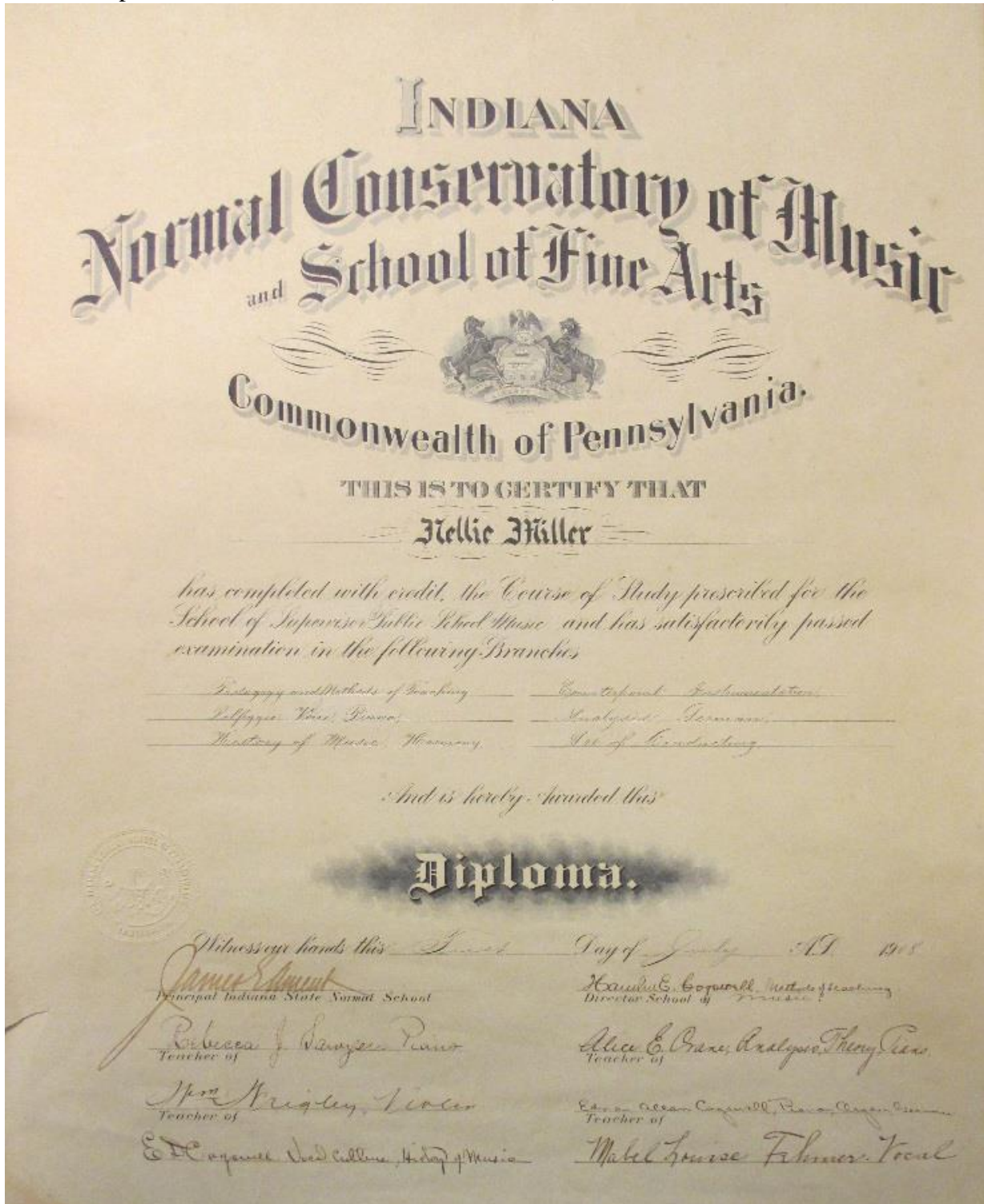
1. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Normal Teachers' Certificate, Butler C. McGrew, Bachelor in the Elements, June 27, 1879 vellum (signed by Principal John H. French and Preceptress Jane E. Leonard)

- 2. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, State Normal Diploma, Butler C. McGrew, Master in the Elements, June 29, 1881 vellum (signed by Principal John H. French)



3. Erodolphian Literary Society, State Normal School, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Diploma, William W. Ulerich, July 5, 1884 photocopy (signed by (Principal Leonard H. Durling and Preceptress Jane E. Leonard)
4. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Normal Teachers' Certificate, William W. Ulerich, Bachelor in the Elements, July 10, 1884 photocopy (signed by (Principal Leonard H. Durling and Preceptress Jane E. Leonard)
5. Erodolphian Literary Society, State Normal School, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Diploma, Jennie R. McElhaney (McElhaney Hall), July 4, 1885
6. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Normal Teachers' Certificate, Jennie R. McElhaney (McElhaney Hall), Bachelor in the Elements, July 9, 1885 vellum (signed by Principal Leonard H. Durling and Preceptress Jane E. Leonard)
7. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Normal Teachers' Certificate, Robert M. Wilson, Bachelor in the Elements, July 15, 1886 vellum (signed by Principal Leonard H. Durling and Preceptress Jane E. Leonard)
8. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Normal Teachers' Certificate, John S. Fisher, ([Manuscript Group 72](#)), (Governor of Pennsylvania, 1927-1931), Bachelor in the Elements, July 15, 1886 vellum (signed by Principal Leonard H. Durling and Preceptress Jane E. Leonard)
9. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, State Normal Diploma, Jennie McElhaney, Master in Elementary Didactics, July 7, 1887 vellum (signed by Principal Leonard H. Durling, Preceptress Jane E. Leonard, and J. Wood Clark)
10. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, State Normal Diploma, John S. Fisher, ([Manuscript Group 72](#)), (Governor of Pennsylvania, 1927-1931), Master in the Elements, July 5, 1888 vellum (signed by Principal Leonard H. Durling, Preceptress Jane E. Leonard, and J. Wood Clark)
11. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Normal Teachers' Certificate, Robert M. Wilson, Bachelor in the Sciences, July 5, 1888 vellum (signed by Principal Leonard H. Durling and Preceptress Jane E. Leonard, and J. Wood Clark)
12. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, State Normal Diploma, W. W. Ulerich, Master in the Elements, July 4, 1889 photocopy (signed by Principal Z. X. Snyder and Preceptress Jane E. Leonard)
13. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, State Normal Diploma, Robert M. Wilson, Master in the Sciences, July 3, 1890 vellum (signed by Principal Z. X. Snyder and Preceptress Jane E. Leonard)
14. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Normal Teachers' Certificate, Minnie B. Russell, Bachelor in the Elements, July 4, 1891 (signed by Principal Z. X. Snyder, Preceptress Jane E. Leonard, and Sadie M. Gallagher)
15. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, State Normal Diploma, Minnie B. Russell, Master in the Elements, July 5, 1893 vellum (signed by Principal Charles W. Deane, Preceptress Jane E. Leonard, Sarah M. Gallagher, and M. C. Gordon)
16. Huyghenian Literary Society, Indiana Normal School of Pennsylvania, Diploma, I. W. Kerner, June 29, 1895
17. Erodolphian Literary Society, State Normal School, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Diploma, Herbert J. Russell, June 29, 1895
18. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Normal Teachers' Certificate, James Herbert Russell, Bachelor in the Elements, July 4, 1895 vellum (signed by Principal David J. Waller, Preceptress Jane E. Leonard, and M. C. Gordon)

- 19. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Normal Teachers' Certificate, Ruth Adair, Bachelor in the Elements, July 4, 1895 vellum (signed by Principal David J. Waller, Preceptress Jane E. Leonard, and M. C. Gordon)
- 20. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Normal Teachers' Certificate, Emily Juanita Shields, Bachelor in the Elements, July 1, 1895 vellum (signed by Principal David J. Waller, Preceptress Jane E. Leonard, and M. C. Gordon)



21. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, State Normal Diploma, Ruth Adair, Master in the Elements, July 30, 1897 vellum (signed by Principal David J. Waller, Preceptress Jane E. Leonard, and M. C. Gordon)
22. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Normal Teachers' Certificate, Naomi Blanche Donahey, Bachelor in the Elements, June 30, 1897 vellum (signed by Principal David J. Waller, Preceptress Jane E. Leonard, and M. C. Gordon)
23. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, State Normal Diploma, Jane E. Leonard, ([Manuscript Group 24](#)), Master in the Sciences, June 30, 1897 vellum (signed by Principal David J. Waller, Preceptress Jane E. Leonard, and M. C. Gordon)
24. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, State Normal Diploma, J. Herbert Russell, Master in the Elements, June 29, 1898 vellum (signed by Principal David J. Waller, Preceptress Jane E. Leonard, and M. C. Gordon) special note about J. Herbert Russell by Principal Waller on reverse
25. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, State Normal Diploma, Juanita Shields, Master in the Elements, June 29, 1898 vellum (signed by Principal David J. Waller, Preceptress Jane E. Leonard, and M. C. Gordon)
26. Erodolphian Literary Society, State Normal School, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Diploma, Mary Edna Flegal, June 24, 1899
27. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Normal Teachers' Certificate, Mary Edna Flegal, Elementary Course, June 28, 1899 vellum (signed by Principal David J. Waller and M. C. Gordon)
28. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, State Normal School Diploma, Naomi B. Donahey, June 26, 1901 vellum (signed by Principal David J. Waller, Preceptress Jane E. Leonard, and M. C. Gordon)
29. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Normal Teachers' Certificate, James Herbert Russell, Bachelor in the Sciences, June 26, 1901 vellum (signed by Principal David J. Waller, Preceptress Jane E. Leonard, M. C. Gordon, and Hope Stewart)
30. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, State Normal School Diploma, Mary Edna Flegal, June 26, 1901 vellum (signed by Principal David J. Waller, Preceptress Jane E. Leonard, and M. C. Gordon)
31. Erodolphian Literary Society, State Normal School, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Diploma, Bertha A. Mensch, June 16, 1906
32. Erodolphian Literary Society, State Normal School, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Diploma, Effie Leota Shields (see [Manuscript Group 1](#)), June 16, 1906
33. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Normal Teachers' Certificate, Bertha Alice Mensch, June 27, 1906 vellum (signed by Principal David J. Waller, Preceptress Jane E. Leonard, and Jennie M. Ackerman)
34. Indiana Normal School of Pennsylvania, Mabel Evans, Shorthand Course of Study, March 22, no date after 1906 (signed by Principal James Ament)
35. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Normal Teachers' Certificate, Olive Evans, July 1, 1908 (signed by Principal James Ament, Preceptress Jane E. Leonard, Hamlin E. Cogswell, and M. C. Gordon)
36. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, State Normal School Diploma, Bertha A. Mensch, July 1, 1908 (signed by Principal James Ament, Preceptress Jane E. Leonard, M. C. Gordon, Hamlin E. Cogswell, and Jennie M. Ackerman)

37. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Indiana Normal Conservatory of Music and School of Fine Arts, Nellie Miller, Diploma, July 1, 1908 (signed by Principal James Ament, E. D. Cogswell, Hamlin E. Cogswell, and Edna Allan Cogswell) see [Record Group 33](#)
38. State Normal Business School, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Commercial Department, Diploma, Wilmer Hughes Beatty, March 26, 1909 (signed by James Ament, Principal; E. B. Race, Director of Commercial Department; and Thomas Sutton, President of the Board of Trustees) includes his obituary and letter of donation from his step granddaughter Tami Henvit (2024)
39. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Indiana Normal Conservatory of Music and School of Fine Arts, Mary St. Clair King, Diploma, June 29, no date 1910 (signed by Principal James Ament, Edna Allan Cogswell, Hamlin E. Cogswell, and E. D. Cogswell) see [Record Group 33](#)
40. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Indiana Normal Conservatory of Music and School of Fine Arts, Mary St. Clair King, Diploma, June 29, 1910 (signed by Principal James Ament, Dorothy Cogswell, and Hamlin E. Cogswell) see [Record Group 33](#)
41. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, State Normal School Diploma, Olive Evans, June 29, 1910 (signed by Principal James Ament, Preceptress Jane E. Leonard, Preceptor Jack, Jennie M. Ackerman, and Hamlin E. Cogswell)
42. Huyghenian Literary Society, Indiana State Normal School of Pennsylvania, Diploma, Elizabeth Kinter, June 17, 1913
43. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Normal Teachers' Certificate, Mary Ellen Eakin, June 25, 1913 (signed by Principal James Ament and Trustee President Thomas Sutton)
44. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Normal Teachers' Certificate, Elizabeth Helen Kinter, June 25, 1913 (signed by Principal James Ament and Trustee President Thomas Sutton)
45. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, State Normal School Diploma, Mary Ellen Eakin, June 30, 1915 (signed by Principal James Ament and Trustee President Thomas Sutton)
46. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, State Normal School Diploma, Elizabeth H. Kinter, June 30, 1915 (signed by Principal James Ament and Trustee President Thomas Sutton)
47. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Normal School Teachers' Certificate, Mary Leona Kline, June 30, 1915 (signed by Principal James Ament and Trustee Thomas Sutton)
48. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Normal School Teachers' Certificate, Alma Margaret Hileman Post, June 30, 1915 (signed by Principal James Ament and Trustee President Thomas Sutton), for more information (see Record Group 53 Box 56 Folder 10)
49. College Preparatory Diploma, Indiana State Normal School, Mary Lee Keith (daughter of ISNS Principal John Keith), June 23, 1920 (signed by Principal John A. H. Keith and Trustee President Thomas Sutton)
50. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, State Normal School Diploma, Beulah M. Shuster, April 13, 1921 (signed by Principal John A. H. Keith and Trustee President Thomas Sutton)
51. Certificate for proficiency in Penmanship, M. Ella Moore, Indiana State Normal School, May 10, 1922
52. Indiana State Normal School: The Training School, Junior High School diploma, Anna Maria Hauxhurst, May 29, 1923 (see Manuscript Group 232) see year as Jimmy Stewart graduated from the training school, see photograph in Record Group 81: People – Jimmy Stewart (1923), diploma signed by Jennie Ackerman

**Indiana State Teachers College (ISTC)**

53. Isabella Louise Wilkinson, (Mrs. Isabella Green), ISTC, B.S. in Home Economics (first year), August 23, 1927, signed by John Keith (Superintendent), Thomas Sutton (President of Trustees), and Charles Foster (President of ISTC), (see Record Group 53 Boxes 66-67, cross-referenced as Manuscript Group 108)
54. Eugene Robert Sutton, ISTC, BSED, signed by ISTC President Charles R. Foster and Board President Thomas Sutton, July 27, 1934 (see [Manuscript Group 175](#)) vellum
55. Frances Emogene Whitacre Truxall, ISTC, Bachelor of Science in Public School Music, signed by President Uhler, May 29, 1944 (vellum), donated by her sister J. Avonelle Whitacre, ISTC Class of 1951 (see Record Group 53 Box 49)
56. Donnella Ruth Phillippi Sutton, ISTC, BSED, signed by President Willis Pratt, August 27, 1954 (see [Manuscript Group 175](#)) vellum
57. Richard Reed Houk and Sara Startzell Houk – diplomas donated by their daughter Elizabeth Houk Grandey, Class of 1965
  - a. Richard Reed Houk: Indiana High School diploma, May 28, 1936
  - b. Richard Reed Houk: Indiana State Teachers College – Bachelor of Science in Education (BSED), May 27, 1940
  - c. Sara Elizabeth Startzell: Indiana State Teachers College – Bachelor of Science in Education (BSED), July 26, 1941
58. Sylvia Anita Malone, ISTC, BSED in Home Economics, signed by President Willis Pratt, May 24, 1954 (see Manuscript Group 186 – Record Group 53 Boxes 27-28)
59. Sara Startzell Houk: Indiana State College – Master of Education, May 29, 1961

## **Box 2 Letter-size Bound Diplomas (1 Framed Certificate and 2 Diplomas)**

### **Indiana State Normal School (ISNS)**

1. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Public Instruction, Partial Elementary Certificate, Grace Campbell, Clearfield County, August 1, 1922. Grace Campbell Cribbs (1902-1981) was married to William J. Cribbs (1904-1975). This certificate and a panoramic photograph of Indiana State Normal School dated May 22, 1922 with Grace Campbell identified in it were donated by her daughter Mona Cribbs Kessler and son-in-law David Kessler in 2015.

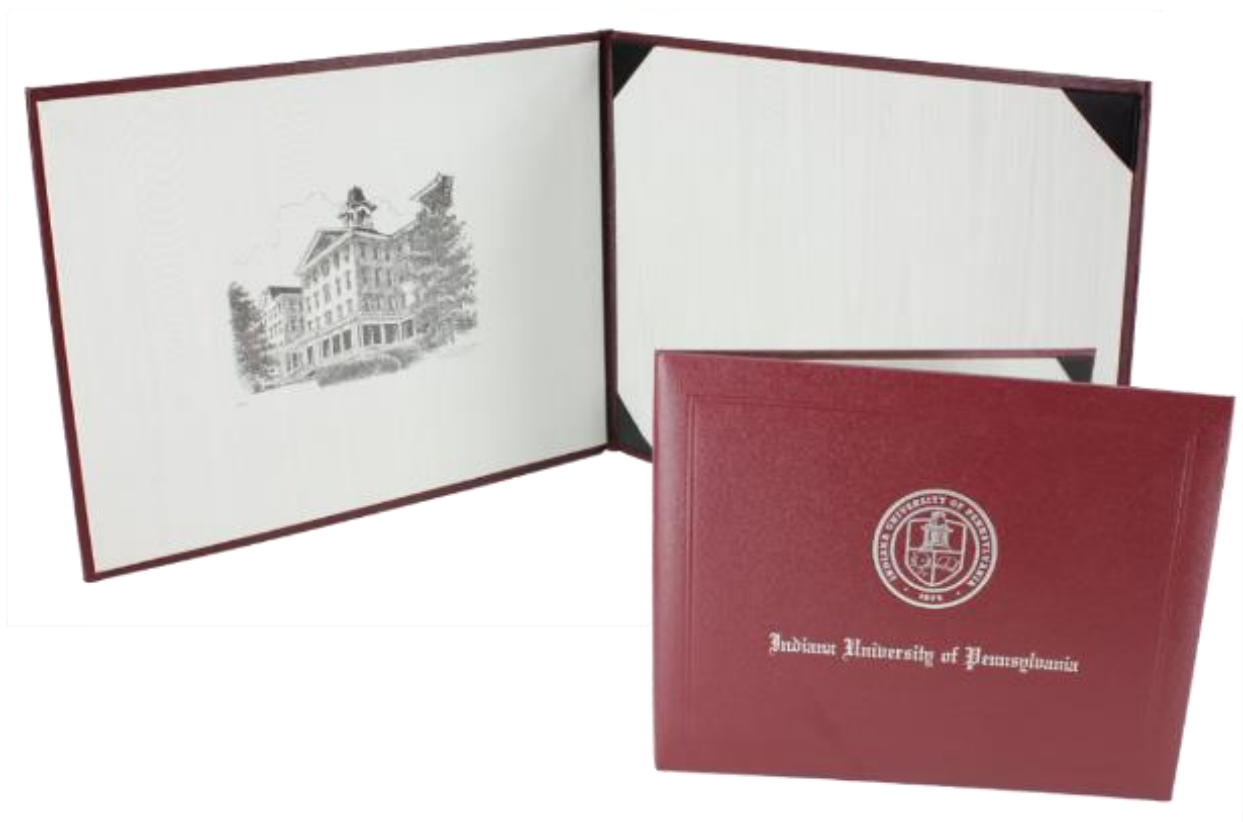
### **Indiana State Teachers College (ISTC)**

2. Mary Hastings Nessenthaler, ISTC Class of 1929
  - a. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: Department of Public Instruction – Partial Certificate – Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, August 1, 1925, signed by Francis B. Haas
  - b. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: Department of Public Instruction – Normal Certificate (Indiana Normal School), August 4, 1928, signed by John A. H. Keith (superintendent) and Charles R. Foster (principal)
3. Jean Huey Smith, College Certificate, Indiana State Teachers College, B.S. in Education, June 23, 1948

### **Indiana State College (ISC)**

4. Donnella Ruth Phillippi Sutton, Indiana State College (ISC), Master of Education, January 15, 1964 (see [Manuscript Group 175](#)) bound
5. Richard T. Haines, ISC, Bachelor of Arts, January 19, 1966 (bound)



**Diplomas not in Record Group 87**

1. Record Group 53 Box 6: Diplomas and Certificates from other institutions
  - i. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Public Instruction, Honorable James C. Clarke, Westmoreland County, Trustee on the part of the State, Indiana State Normal School, Ninth District, 1876
  - ii. West Indiana Public Schools of Indiana, Pennsylvania, Diploma, Minnie B. Russell, no date (circa 1893)
  - iii. West Indiana Public Schools of Indiana, Pennsylvania, Diploma, John Herbert Russell, May 18, 1893
  - iv. University of Michigan, Teacher's Certificate, James H. Russell, June 18, 1903
  - v. University of Michigan, Special Diploma, James H. Russell, June 18, 1803
  - vi. Pennsylvania State University, Summer Session for Teachers, Bertha A. Mensch, 1912
  - vii. Public Schools of Indiana County, Pennsylvania, Diploma, Martha Ella Moore, October 21, 1912
  - viii. University of Pittsburgh, Doctor of Letters (Honorary Degree), Johannam E. Leonard (written in Latin, possibly for Jane E. Leonard), 1916
  - ix. Common Schools of Pennsylvania, Indiana County, Pennsylvania, Teachers' Professional Certificate, Ella Mmore, April 15, 1918
  - x. Pennsylvania State University, Teacher Training Department, Diploma, Mabel S. Evans, April 22, 1918
  - xi. Public Schools of Indiana County, Pennsylvania, Diploma, Claire Winifred Sharrer, July 9, 1919

- xii. American Red Cross, Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick course, Jean R. McElhaney (McElhaney Hall), March 23, 1920
  - xiii. The Palmer Method of Business Writing, Teacher's Certificate, Ella Moore, June 26, 1922
  - xiv. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Public Instruction, Normal Certificate, Ella M. Moore, August 1, 1922
  - xv. University of Pittsburgh, Bachelor of Science, Martha Ella Moore, August 9, 1922
  - xvi. Columbia University, Master of Arts, Martha Ella Moore, December 21, 1932
  - xvii. Certificate: Concordia's Knights associated to the International League for Reconciliation and Fraternization "Friend of Humanity" in the spirit of the United Nations Organization, Grand Master of the Concordia's Knighthood Order, Francesco Biamonte, Knight Commander, May 17, 1950
2. Record Group 53 Box 42 (Folder 6): Memorabilia & Ephemera – ISNS diplomas donated by Mrs. Peg Robinson
- i. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Normal Teacher's Certificate, Mary Hamilton, signed by Indiana State Normal School (ISNS) Principal James Ament, June 30, 1915
  - ii. Diploma: Indiana State Normal School, Mary Hamilton, signed by Principal James Ament and Board of Trustees President Thomas Sutton, June 27, 1917
3. Manuscript Group 156 Series I Box 3: Ellen Sylves Ruddock
- i. Framed Diploma: Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) Margaret Ellen Sylves Ruddock, Bachelor of Science in Education (BSED), January 19, 1966 (see Manuscript Group 156 Series I Box 3)