INTRODUCTION
The publications, books, poems, diaries, and professional documents of Edgar N. Mendenhall. Also includes special family documents involving the invention of corn planters and personal documents that share information about Mendenhall.

DONOR INFORMATION
The Edgar N. Mendenhall Papers were donated to the Leonard H. Axe Library at Pittsburg State University by an unknown donor.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Edgar Nelson Mendenhall was born in Franklin, Indiana on September 10th, 1872. He married another native of his hometown on October 10th, 1899. He married Marcia Miller and had two children with her during their 62 years of marriage. Their two sons were named James E. Mendenhall and Paul Mendenhall.

He attended Franklin University and Harvard University. He also attended and graduated from the University of Chicago with a degree Ph B., 1917, and from Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City, Degree AM, 1928.

His wide range of teaching experiences include six years, 1890-1896, working in rural schools in Indiana, seven years, 1896-1903, teacher and principal at Senior High School in Greensburg, Indiana, eight years, 1903-1911, superintendent of schools for Decatur County, and five years 1911-1916 also as a superintendent for Goshen County.

In 1917, after receiving his diploma from the University of Chicago, Mendenhall came into a job at the Kansas State Teachers College in Pittsburg, Kansas as a professor and head of the Department of Rural Education. While at the Kansas State Teachers College, he was a member of the National Education Association, National Society for the Study of Education, Phi Delta Kappa and Kappa Delta Pi; national honorary fraternities in education. In 1928, he was appointed the director of research and editor of Technne, a professional journal maintained by faculty of the college. He was also known for being the author of The City School Board and His Task. In 1942 Professor and Mrs. Mendenhall founded the Robert Miller Mendenhall Fund, in memory of their deceased son. This effected the Kappa Mu Epsilon Fraternity which annually would award pins or keys to the senior members with the highest average grades in any mathematics major. In 1941 Edgar Mendenhall retired from active duty as an educator.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE
The majority of the materials in the Edgar N. Mendenhall Papers is related to his professional career while at Kansas State Teachers College, now Pittsburg State University, and some of his personal effects. These papers are arranged in four series: Biography, Professional, Family and Personal.

The Biography Series includes an undated professional summary with an unknown author about Edgar N. Mendenhall.
The Professional Series dates from 1894 to 1951. This series is arranged chronologically. In this series it contains a copy of The Clarion, a type of yearbook from Franklin College in 1894. Also contains two of his personal writings dedicated to the Kansas State Teachers College, such as, How Big Is Your Task and O Alma Mater, Beacon Bright. Contains a copy of The Triangle of Lambda Phi Delta from June 1923.

The Family Series dates from 1870 to 1872. This section contains patents issued to Noah Mendenhall, father of Edgar Mendenhall. These patents are relevant to corn planters and the improvement of their design. No other information about Edgar Mendenhall's family was located in this collection.

The Personal Series spans from various time periods in his life. All dates on the documents in this section are unknown. This series contains a copy of the Sheboygan Chair Company catalogue from 1885. Inside of this book almost every page is covered with random assortments of newspaper clippings. Also includes a teachers guide by Harold Rugg and James E. Mendenhall, a post card and a poem entitled “Education” by Arthur Guiterman. Finally this series has a copy of Edgar’s Daily desk diary from 1951, which was during the retirement.

FOLDER LIST

Biography Series
f.1      Undated Biography ( 1 pp. )

Professional Series
f.2      The Clarion from Franklin College ( 76 pp. )
f.3      O alma mater, beacon bright (1 pp.)
        How Big Is Your Task? ( 1 pp.)
        The Triangle of Lambda Phi Delta ( 85 pp. )
f.4      Quincy Consolidated Schools Letter ( 1 pp. )

Family Series
f.5      1870 Improvements in Corn Planters patent ( 1 pp.)
        1872 Improvements in Corn Planters Patent ( 1 pp.)

Personal Series
f.6      1885 Sheboygan Chair Company catalog
f.7      1930 teachers guide
f.8      Post card to Edgar from Japan
f.9      1951 Daily Desk Diary
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