

Jessie M. Bierman Papers, circa 1890-1993

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Bierman, Jessie M. (Jessie Marguerite), 1900-1996
Title	Jessie M. Bierman Papers
Dates	circa 1890-1993 (inclusive) 1890 1993
Quantity	4.25 linear feet
Collection Number	Mss 586
Summary	This collection contains the personal and professional papers of Dr. Jessie M. Bierman, a pioneer in the field of maternal and child health, from all stages of her life.
Repository	University of Montana, Mansfield Library, Archives and Special Collections Archives and Special Collections Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library University of Montana 32 Campus Dr. #9936 59812-9936 Missoula, MT Telephone: 406-243-2053 Fax: 406-243-4067 library.archives@umontana.edu
Access Restrictions	Researchers must use collection in accordance with the policies of Archives and Special Collections, the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, and The University of Montana--Missoula.
Languages	English

Biographical Note

Jessie M. Bierman was born on April 6, 1900, at Egan Slough near Kalispell, Montana, to Henry and Alice Bierman. She received her bachelor of arts from The University of Montana in 1921 and got a medical degree from Rush Medical College of the University of Chicago in 1926. She earned a master of public health at the Institute of Columbia University fifteen years later.

Dr. Bierman worked in private practice in San Francisco, California, from 1927 to 1936 and also served as an instructor in pediatrics at the University of California School of Medicine. In 1936, Bierman returned to Montana to work as Director of Maternal and Child Health in the Montana Department of Health. She started well-baby clinics in Montana that were a model for such programs across the country.

From 1938 to 1942, she worked with the Children's Bureau in Washington, D.C., as assistant director of the Division of Health Sciences. She was chief of Maternal and Child Health of the California Department of Public Health from 1942 to 1947, during which she became a lecturer in pediatrics and a professor of maternal and child health at the University of California School of Medicine, a position she held until 1963. While at the University of California, she traveled to Germany as an expert in maternal and child health and served as a consultant on maternal and child health problems in India.

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Bierman also studied the children of Kauai, Hawaii, and published her findings in the book *The Children of Kauai*.

She was named professor emerita in 1963, but stayed on as the director of maternal and child health research until 1967. After that, she was the head of the maternal and child bureau for the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland and was visiting professor of public health at the University of North Carolina.

Jessie Bierman was the recipient of the Martha May Eliot Award of the American Public Health Association and other distinguished awards. She was given an honorary doctorate by The University of Montana in 1967.

Bierman had a summer residence at Goose Bay on Flathead Lake. Bierman supported academics and research at The University of Montana's Biological Station, endowing a distinguished professorship to support an internationally recognized ecologist to study and direct research at the Flathead Lake Biological Station. Bierman died in 1996.

Content Description

This collection contains the personal and professional papers of Dr. Jessie Bierman, a pioneer in the field of child and maternal health, from all stages of her life. The collection contents begin with writings related to Bierman's family history. The collection contains the memoirs of Jessie Bierman's father, Henry, and her writings about him.

Items from her early days include a poetry scrapbook filled with correspondence and poems, her high school yearbooks, and diploma. Her student days at The University of Montana are represented by a scrapbook and diploma. Materials from her medical career in California include a set of house call diaries, 1931-1935. A scrapbook and related correspondence represent her years with the Montana Department of Health. Her positions in government and with international missions related to maternal and child health are reflected in correspondence and other writings. The collection contains the writings and publications Bierman completed while at the University of California and elsewhere, including the study she prepared regarding the children of Kauai, Hawaii.

The collection contains the numerous honors and awards Bierman received toward the end of her career. It also contains clippings about Bierman and other clippings and publications she collected on child and maternal health issues. The photographs in the collection are from all stages of Bierman's life. Of particular interest are the family photographs, which include photographs of the Kalispell Meat Market that was owned and operated by Henry Bierman, and photographs of Henry and Alice Bierman.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

Researchers are responsible for using in accordance with 17 U.S.C. and any other applicable statutes. Copyright status unknown.

Preferred Citation

[Name of document or photograph number], Jessie M. Bierman Papers, Archives and Special Collections, Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, The University of Montana--Missoula.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

The collection is divided into six series:

Series I: Henry Bierman, 0.25 linear feet, 1895-1985

Series II: Jessie Bierman, 1.5 linear feet, 1907-1986

Series III: Writings, 0.5 linear feet, 1924-1986

Series IV: Awards and Honors, 1.25 linear feet, 1918-1993

Series V: Clippings, 0.5 linear feet, 1935-1991

Series VI: Photographs, 0.25 linear feet, circa 1890-1980

Acquisition Information

The bulk of the collection was donated by Jessie Bierman in 1987 and 1991. Another portion of the collection was a gift of the University of California-Berkeley, Bancroft Library, 2000.

Processing Note

The collection was processed and a finding aid was written by Jennifer Rusk in Fall 2004. The collection consists of three separate accessions of materials, which were combined and reorganized to create the collection. One accession of materials (donated in 2000) consisted of duplicates of correspondence, writings, clippings from the Jessie M. Bierman Papers at the University of California-Berkeley. Negatives were physically removed from the collection for preservation.

Related Materials

The Bancroft Library at the University of California-Berkeley holds a collection of Jessie M. Bierman papers.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Henry Bierman, 1895-1985

0.25 linear feet

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	Johann Heinrich Bierman's descendents in America	undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/2	Henry Bierman's memoirs and correspondence	1895 and undated
1/3	Henry and Alice Bierman Marriage Certificate	1899
1/4	Book accounts of Kalispell Meat Market-Henry Bierman, Proprietor	1906-1926
1/5	Henry Bierman certificates	1939 and 1943
1/6	Clippings re: Henry Bierman's death	1943
1/7	Newspaper features about Henry Bierman, Montana history-general	1949-1985 and undated
1/8	Correspondence, writings, clippings re: Montana: The Magazine of Western History articles about Henry Bierman	1959-1961 and undated

Series II: Jessie Bierman, 1907-1986

1.5 linear feet

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/9	Jessie Bierman grades	1907-1928
1/10	Flathead High School yearbooks	1916-1918
2/1	Poetry Scrapbook	1918 and undated
2/2	Scrapbook-Autobiographical	1920-1971 and undated
2/3	Rush Medical College of The University of Chicago, Senior Class book	1926
2/4	House call diaries	1931-1933
2/5	House call diaries	1935-1936

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/6	Scrapbook-Montana State Board of Health	1936-1937
2/7	Montana State Board of Health, correspondence, clippings	1936-1938
2/8	Children's Bureau	1937-1981
3/1	Correspondence	1929-1986
3/2	Personal correspondence	1932-1952 and undated
3/3	State of California Department of Health	1942-1945 and undated
3/4	University of California-Jessie Bierman, faculty member	1947-1984
3/5	Notes about Geneva, India, Mediterranean, Soviet Union	undated
3/6	Germany trip, notes and miscellaneous	1949
3/7	Germany trip with Unitarian Service Committee Public Health Planning Team	1951
3/8	Outgoing correspondence from trip to India	1955
3/9	Clippings and memorabilia from Soviet trip (1956)	1956 and undated
3/10	Clippings and publications from Soviet Union	1956-1969 and undated
3/11	Trip to Soviet Union (1956) and other Soviet Union-related materials	1956-1961
3/12	Trip via Asia	1957
Box		
OS9	Diploma: University of Chicago, Doctor of Medicine	1927
OS9	Diploma: University of Montana, Bachelor of Arts	1921
OS9	Diploma: Flathead County High School	1918

Container(s)	Description	Dates
OS9	Certificate: Montana Board of Medical Examiners	1936
OS9	The American Board of Preventive Medicine and Public Health	1950
OS9	Delta Omega	1948
OS10	Art plates: <i>Ajanta Paintings: Twenty Colour Plates</i> , published in New Delhi	1956
OS10	Student Scrapbook: The University of Montana	1919-1921

Series III: Writings, 1924-1986

0.5 linear feet

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
4/1	Published papers-Kauai Pregnancy and Child Study, other papers about maternal and child health (some by Jessie Bierman)	1924-1970
4/2	Publications by Jessie Bierman	1924-1968
4/3	Speeches/writings and radio broadcasts by Jessie Bierman	1938-1986 and undated
4/4	Writings by Jessie Bierman	1958-1971 and undated
4/5	Kauai Study, clippings, correspondence	1960-1972 and undated
4/6	Book <i>The Children of Kauai</i> by Jessie Bierman, Emmy E. Werner, and Fern E. French	1971
4/7	Martha May Eliot tributes	1966-1978 and undated
5/1	"Annotated Bibliography on Maternal Nutrition," by Jessie Bierman, with related news releases	1970

Container(s)	Description	Dates
5/2	Publication, "Maternal Nutrition and the Course of Pregnancy" by Jessie Bierman, with related correspondence	1970
5/3	Curriculum Vitae drafts for Jessie Bierman	undated
5/4	Notes, clippings and overhead transparencies for speeches	1967-1969 and undated
5/5	Miscellaneous writings and notes	undated

Series IV: Awards and Honors, 1918-1993

1.25 linear feet

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
5/6	Certificates-honorary, etc. for Jessie Bierman	1918-1964
5/7	University of Montana-awards, clippings, writings	1960-1993
5/8	Honorary Doctorate, The University of Montana	1967
5/9	The Golden Grizzly Den, The University of Montana, certificate	1971
5/10	American Public Health Association Certificate	1977
6/1	University of Chicago Alumni Award	1984
6/2	Honors-miscellaneous correspondence, clippings	1958-1984
Box		
8	Plaque: "Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies-The Montana Coalition Establishes the Jessie Bierman, MD, MPH, Lecture"	1990
8	Plaque: American Public Health Association-Martha May Eliot Award, presented to Jessie Bierman	1968
8	Two academic hoods, one possibly Ph.D. hood	undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
OS10	Framed certificate: "The University of Chicago Alumni Association Professional Achievement Award"	1984

Series V: Clippings, 1935-1991

0.5 linear feet

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
6/3	Clippings about Jessie Bierman	1934-1983
6/4	Clippings about Jessie Bierman	1937-1982
6/5	Jessie M. Bierman Annual Lecture in Maternal and Child Health, programs	1963-1965
6/6	Publications and clippings, health and medical-related	1935-1978 and undated
6/7	World Health Organization publications	1957-1970
6/8	Public health publications by others	1966-1972
6/9	University of North Carolina	1971
6/10	Miscellaneous clippings	1978-1979 and undated
6/11	University of Montana Biological Station, Flathead Lake	1967-1986 and undated
6/12	University of Montana Biological Station clippings	1973-1991 and undated

Box

OS9	Poster: First Annual Jessie M. Bierman Lecture	1963
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Series VI: Photographs, circa 1890-1980

0.25 linear feet

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
6/13	Alice Bierman photographs	circa 1890-1948
6/14	Henry Bierman and family photographs	circa 1902-1940s and undated
6/15	Jessie Bierman photographs	1918-1980 and undated
6/16	California photographs	1926-1979 and undated
7/1	Germany photographs	1949-1951
7/2	Foreign travel photographs	1955-1956 and undated
7/3	Soviet Union Trip-Seminar "The Equality of Women in the USSR," photographs	1956
7/4	Honorary degree photographs	1966
7/5	[Bierman at home, Goose Bay, Flathead Lake] photographs	1967 and undated
7/6	Miscellaneous photographs	undated
7/7	Scenic photographs	undated
Box		
Negatives	[Jessie Bierman] examining a child, undated [Jessie Bierman], undated [Jessie Bierman] and unidentified children fishing, undated [Henry Bierman], undated Ida Shavers Bierman, portrait, 1887	

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Child health services--Government policy--Montana

Children--Health and hygiene

Children--Health and hygiene--Hawaii--Kauai

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Maternal health services
Maternal health services--Government policy--Montana
Pediatrics
Women pediatricians--California--San Francisco--Diaries

Personal Names :

Bierman, Alice--Photographs
Bierman, Henry--1860-1943--Biography
Bierman, Henry--1860-1943--Photographs

Corporate Names :

California--Bureau of Maternal and Child Health
Kalispell Meat Market (Kalispell, Mont.)--Photographs
Montana--State Dept. of Health
University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco--Faculty
University of Montana--Missoula--Students

Form or Genre Terms :

Awards
Personal papers
Photographs
Poems
Scrapbooks

Occupations :

Women pediatricians

Finding aid prepared by Jennifer Rusk
2004



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