Thomas J. Breitwieser papers
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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Ball State University Archives and Special Collections
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Summary Information

Repository: Ball State University Archives and Special Collections
Creator: Breitwieser, Thomas J. 1886-1970
Title: Thomas J. Breitwieser papers
Date: 1848-1990
Extent: 0.3 Cubic feet 1 Box
Language: English
Text [Box]: 1

Preferred Citation
Thomas J. Breitwieser papers, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries
Biographical Note / Historical Note / Administrative History

Thomas J. Breitwieser was born near Jasper, Indiana on September 19, 1886 to John C. and Katherine Breitwieser. At the age of four, his family moved to Tipton County. He began his lifelong career of teaching in 1905, and in 1908 he received his Bachelor of Science degree from the Central Normal College in Danville, Indiana. In 1912 he received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Indiana University and the same year earned his Master of Arts degree. In 1908 he became the principal of the High School at Hobbs, and maintained the position for two years. He later became an assistant professor of psychology at the Indiana Normal School in Terre Haute.

In 1917, Breitwieser joined the army and was sent to Atlanta, Georgia, where he received a commission as a First Lieutenant in the Sanitary Corps and was assigned to duty as a psychologist. He was transferred to Chattanooga, Tennessee and then to Hattiesburg, Mississippi and would be subsequently transferred to Little Rock, Arkansas until the end of the war. In March of 1919, he received his discharge papers and returned to his teaching position at the Indiana Normal School in Terre Haute. He was then transferred to the Indiana State Normal School, Eastern Division, now known as Ball State University, to become the head of the psychology department. On January 1, 1920, Breitwieser was appointed dean of the school.

Breitwieser was involved in many philanthropic organizations, including the local post of the American Legion, a Masonic fraternity, and the Muncie Exchange Club, and also was affiliated with Phi Delta Kappa. Upon his death in 1970, Dr. Breitwieser left behind a daughter, Edna Ruth, and his wife, Anita (VanVliet) Breitwieser, as well as a grandson, Richard Dunning.

Scope and Contents

This collection includes the personal papers of Thomas J. Breitwieser as well as materials related to Breitwieser family history gathered by descendants of Thomas J. Breitwieser dating from 1848 to 1990.

Included in the collection are biographical clippings, genealogical materials, photographs, and records of Breitwieser’s military service during World War I. The collection documents Breitwieser's academic career as well and includes records of undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate studies, a copy of his doctoral thesis, entitled “Occupational Stability of the Graduates of Pennsylvania State Teachers Colleges, 1910 to 1930”, records from his tenure at Ball State, and text copies of speeches he delivered throughout his career. A pack of Zener cards that Breitwieser used as part of his participation in a study designed by parapsychologist J.B. Rhine can also be found in this collection.
Arrangement

This collection is arranged chronologically.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Ball State University Archives and Special Collections

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries, Muncie, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Archives and Special Collections.

Accruals

No further additions are expected.

Processing Information

EAD finding aid created 2011/04/21 by Michael Szajewski and Helen Boyer.

Controlled Access Headings

Subject(s)
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